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Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

OIC Head: 'No Military Solution' to Chechnya

LD2607220795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1922 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 26 Jul — Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], has expressed his concern over the continuing fighting and tension in the Chechen republic.

In a statement issued today by the OIC, he said that there was no military solution to the tragic struggle going on there.

Algabid appealed to the Russian Government to exercise restraint and to cease the use of force to settle the dispute. He stressed the need for the continuation of the current talks between the Russian Government and the Chechen delegation, which provided a powerful impetus towards enabling the two sides to reach a peaceful political solution to the Chechen problem.

World League Welcomes OIC Statement on Bosnia

LD2407183795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1720 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mecca, 24 Jul — The general secretariat of the Islamic World League [IWL] welcomed the final statement of the Islamic contact group formed by the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] in Geneva in which the OIC declared that the Islamic states are no longer committed to the unjust resolution banning the supply of arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina, which became legally not binding under article 51 of the UN charter.

The IWL in a statement released today pointed out that the aggression of the Serbs violated all resolutions of the United Nations and the UN Security Council while the international forces and the forces of the NATO alliance virtually took no action to deter this aggression in implementation of the UN resolutions.

The IWL statement saluted the efforts of the Islamic contact group for confronting the recent events in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It said the Islamic peoples in the world who are following the painful events expect the Islamic world states to intensify their efforts to strengthen the defensive capabilities of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The statement pointed out that this stand is the right and just stand that should be taken as the peoples of the Islamic nation think it should be taken.

AL-BAYAN Praises Results of OIC Meeting

LD2307192795 Tehran IRNA in English
1903 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, July 23, IRNA — The decision of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] not to comply with the Bosnian arms embargo, shows the willpower of more than 1200 million muslims, a Dubai based daily, AL-BAYAN wrote Sunday.

AL-BAYAN in its editorial titled, "for the dignity of Islam and Muslims" wrote that the international community and the U.N. Security Council members are indifferent toward the Serbs' horrible crimes, adding that they talk as if they were discussing philosophy.

Refering to the London meeting of the international Contact Group on Bosnia, AL-BAYAN added that the big countries with armies equipped with the most modern military weaponry and nuclear arsenals, have softly warned the Serbs to contain their crimes.

The paper went on to say that since the warnings are similar to the ones previously issued, they carry no weight on the Serbs' crimes against the Muslims. It added that it was high time that the Muslims themselves took the initiative.

AL-BAYAN pointed out that the issue was not "the angry reaction of Islamic countries" as the Western media put it but it is the inability of the international community to take any measures in resolving the Bosnian crisis.

The paper concludes that a holy war (jihad) will not only save the Bosnian brothers and sisters but also restore the prestige and creditability of the Muslims and the Islamic world.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI

11 Jul

NC2007055595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Ulemas Reject al-Turabi's Fatwa on Terrorism, Martyrdom
2. Writer Calls For Campaign To Counter al-Turabi's Image of Islam
3. Columnist Maintains Opinion Differences Do Not Justify Violence

4. Writer Suggests U.S., Others Conspire Against Egypt, Islam
5. Mufti Interviewed on Conflict With Sudan, Other Issues
6. Syria's Mufti on Peace With Israel, Egypt's Stance, Islam

ULEMAS REJECT AL-TURABI'S FATWA ON TERRORISM, MARTYRDOM

Page one carries a short 100-word report on the unanimous agreement of all Islamic shari'ah ulemas that Sudanese National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi attempts to misguide terrorists with wrong fatwas. He urges them to kill and terrorize citizens, but Islam is far removed from such things. Al-Turabi claims that acts of terrorism are jihad for God, but the ulemas reject these claims.

On the same subject, more details are provided on page 11. The ulemas have rejected the fatwa issued by Hasan al-Turabi that the terrorists who attacked President Mubarak are mujahidin and that those among them who died are considered martyrs. Dr. Muhammad Nabil Ghana'im, head of the Islamic Shari'ah Department at the Dar al-'Ulum College of Cairo University, says that "the terrorists were trying to kill the Muslim president and the Muslim members of his delegation" which is why they failed in their mission. Their act is not classified as jihad according to the teachings of the Koran and the Prophet. Another doctor at the Shari'ah Department of the Law College at 'Ayn Shams University also notes that "al-Turabi's fatwa is wrong and has nothing to do with Islam." Islam does not sanction killing other Muslims. All other ulemas cited agree about this opinion.

WRITER CALLS FOR CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER AL-TURABI'S IMAGE OF ISLAM

Samir Rajab writes his 400-word "Rightfully I Say" column on page one in which he expresses anger at al-Turabi for creating a wrong image of Islam in the minds of the West which links the religion with terrorism. Rajab says: "I believe the issue is no longer that of a conflict between Egypt and Sudan. It is a fierce onslaught against the principles of justice, fairness, selflessness, and loyalty, which our religion advocates. This requires a serious and decisive stance away from statements of condemnation and renunciation." He calls for a comprehensive campaign by the whole Islamic world to correct concepts and behavior, even if this requires a "jihad campaign" to succeed.

COLUMNIST MAINTAINS OPINION DIFFERENCES DO NOT JUSTIFY VIOLENCE

Basyuni al-Halawani writes his 500-word "In All Frankness" column entitled "Shaykh al-Turabi and His Fake Fatwas" on page 6. Al- Halawani maintains that "al-Turabi and his ilk, who call for terrorism in our Islamic world, are the real enemies of the misguided youths who carry weapons and attack people and property without any right to do so." He laments the fact that the Islamic world has recently been afflicted by strange examples of shaykhs and doctors of philosophy who use Islam to achieve their goals. Al- Halawani hopes that the distressing images of the dead terrorists on television will knock some sense into the youths so that they will become sane and get rid of those who call for terrorism. He concludes: "Differences of opinion cannot justify carrying weapons, killing innocent people, and terrorizing defenseless civilians."

WRITER SUGGESTS U.S., OTHERS CONSPIRE AGAINST EGYPT, ISLAM

Majdi Salim writes an 800-word column on page 8 entitled "A Nagging Suspicion for Man and Nations." He suggests that the attempt on Mubarak's life is part of a greater conspiracy to remove Egypt from the center of important events that affect Arab security and Islamic affairs. He also suggests that at the center of this conspiracy is the United States, which started out by eliminating Iraq, the guard of the eastern gate to the Arab world. East and West also depicted Iran as a greater danger to the Arabs than Israel itself. They turned Sudan into a terrorism-harboring state, and preoccupied Morocco with the Western Sahara issue. The Gulf countries are too busy worrying about the designs they believe other people have on their resources. Salim gives examples of how East and West have colluded against the Arabs, through April Glaspie in Iraq, in Sudan, and by opening their doors for visits by al-Turabi himself. In return, they expect us to abandon Palestine and Jerusalem, Bosnia, Kashmir, and East Asia. Salim advises: "We always have to set before our eyes our major issues. That can only start by uniting the Arab and Islamic ranks." He concludes by calling for dialogue with Sudan and maintains that "our first duty now, which goes side by side with combating terrorism from abroad, is to bridge the Arab gap and find a solution that unites the Arabs once again around one objective. Let us start with Jerusalem."

MUFTI INTERVIEWED ON CONFLICT WITH SUDAN, OTHER ISSUES

The paper publishes on pages 14 and 15 a 2500-word interview with Mufti of the Republic Muhammad

Sayyid Tantawi by Basyuni al-Halawani and Mahmud 'Ushub in which the mufti discusses various issues. On his opinion regarding the use of violence by terrorist groups to settle differences of opinion with others, he says the use of violence is not sanctioned by any divine religion. On the Islamic guidelines for good-neighborliness between two countries and what he would like to tell the Sudanese people, Tantawi answers: "We want goodwill and prosperity for the Sudanese people. At the same time, we want the Sudanese people to appreciate the value of neighborliness between us, to realize that neighborliness is sanctified and that they have to pay back favors with favors." The mufti adds: "We will reciprocate these feelings with honesty and faithfulness." On what the state's stance is on those who support terrorism, the mufti says that the state rejects them. Aiding a terrorist makes one an accessory to murder and this is rejected by religion. On the belief by some terrorists that they are mujahidin for God and that they will die martyrs, he says this is an absolute fallacy. On the recent attempts by some researchers to interpret the Koran, the mufti says that casting doubt on any part of the Koranic texts is a form of atheism. He also discusses the case of Nasr Abu-Zayd, the professor who wrote books interpreting parts of the Koran, and the court rulings against him forcing him to divorce his wife. On claims by some that the court ruling against Abu-Zayd was unfair and that Islam advocates freedom of opinion, he says: We welcome freedom of opinion, but it should not be freedom for atheism.

SYRIA'S MUFTI ON PEACE WITH ISRAEL, EGYPT'S STANCE, ISLAM

Page 20 publishes an interview with Syrian Mufti Shaykh Muhammad Kaftaru by Musa Hal in which the mufti discusses various Islamic issues. On the crisis the Islamic world is currently going through, and his views on the solution to this crisis, he says the Muslim world is weak and divided. The Muslims are also ignorant regarding Islam. He strongly calls on the Muslims to "get rid of oppression, injustice, weakness, ignorance, and humiliation." On his views regarding comprehensive peace in the Arab region between the Arabs and the Israelis, he says: "The politicians who know the policies of our people know what peace is. They have with them those who know how to behave regarding this issue." He maintains there is "a modern crusade targeting Islam as a doctrine and code for morality and ethics to destroy it." On the Egyptian stance in the peace process between Syria and Israel, he says the Egyptian stance is tangible and well-known. It is a positive stance supporting Syria'S rights to the occupied territories. On the resurgence of Islam, which some sides attribute to the economic problems our Islamic and Arab nations have, he says "searching for marginal reasons to justify this gigantic resurgence is mere whim and fancy." Economic reasons, he maintains, are not sufficient to explain this resurgence. He believes Islamic resurgence is the natural result of alertness and the spread of education in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

18 Jul

NC2207201695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 18 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Shaykh Urges Action To End Bosnia 'Massacres'
2. Minister Says Abortion As Means Of Family Planning Rejected
3. Editorial Deplores Situation in Bosnia
4. Al-Azhar Shaykh Calls For Unity
5. Muslim Scholars React to 'Anti-Islam Campaign'
6. Yemeni Envoy Views Islamic Movement in Yemen
7. Writer Urges Islamic World To React to Bosnia Events

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH URGES ACTION TO END BOSNIA 'MASSACRES'

A front-page, 85-word report by Jamal Salim says that al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq has addressed an appeal to the Islamic nation "to act to halt the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia after the international community failed to end their oppression."

He made the appeal during the opening of an international conference on the role of university scientific research in serving development and environment.

The al-Azhar shaykh said: "Such a move will force all international organizations to play their part in facing the odious aggression which is being protected by international forces hostile to Islam and the Muslims."

He "criticized" the Western countries "who had let the tragedy escalate to this point, which is regarded a mark of disgrace on the face of all humanity."

MINISTER SAYS ABORTION AS MEANS OF FAMILY PLANNING REJECTED

A 90-word report on the same page under a banner headline "Dr. Mahran: We Are Committed To Banning Abortion in Implementation of the Shari'ah" quotes the population minister on the abortion issue.

The report says Population Minister Dr. Mahir Mahran has affirmed that Egypt "utterly rejects abortion as a means of family planning."

He said: "We are committed to the Islamic shari'ah's provision in banning abortion, except when a pregnant mother's life is in danger."

EDITORIAL DEPLORES SITUATION IN BOSNIA

A 300-word editorial on page 3 deplores the situation in Bosnia. It notes that the Bosnian president's appeals and calls for help to save the Muslims in his country "have not met attentive ears or merciful hearts" and that those who claim to be human rights advocates "have vanished behind malicious racism."

It says: "The acts in this farce seem to have been planned around distributing roles between some characters demanding the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia, some supporting a military approach to stop Serbian Nazism, and some who reject the principle of allowing the victims to defend themselves on the pretext of fearing that the region might be plunged into a blood bath."

It adds: "What is astonishing is that the one who supported arming the Bosnians yesterday is the same one who today rejects that and blocks resolutions to lift the arms embargo. They leave it to the 'Insecurity Council' to decide whatever it deems fit, because it is the authority responsible for establishing security and stability throughout the world."

The editorial concludes by saying that the Islamic world has not stood with its hands tied; it has denounced and condemned "all Serbian aggression" and demanded the lifting of the arms embargo. It adds: "But we emphasize that no one will respond or listen as long as our countries—the Islamic world—are preoccupied by deceiving and plotting against each other."

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH CALLS FOR UNITY

Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, the shaykh of al-Azhar, authors a 700-word article on page 7 reviewing the Muslims' situation and their need for unity.

He says: "We advise the Islamic nation—both people and rulers— to cleanse their hearts of malice and enmity, to transcend these differences and disputes, be as of one hand and one heart, and rally around the Koran and the Islamic shari'ah. Then the believers will celebrate God-given victory."

Referring to the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, he says the Arabs' unified stand then had its effect and influenced the nations of the earth when "the tyrants" felt the Arabs form a nation that has "clout in running world affairs." He adds that the Arabs have money, men, agriculture, and trade, in addition to all material means of power, above all their "Islamic strength."

MUSLIM SCHOLARS REACT TO 'ANTI-ISLAM CAMPAIGN'

A 1,700-word report on pages 14 and 15 of the 18 July 'AQIDATI cites various Muslim scholars on the campaign launched by "malicious writers" against Muslim ulema "who use magazines and leaflets to spread their poison and disseminate their hatred."

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says the attack on Islamic figures is futile and ineffective because they are firm and strong. He adds: "We want the preachers to speak out without worry or fear of error. I imagine that international colonialism is glad to harm and disparage Muslim ulema while the clergy in the West are honored and accorded the highest positions."

The mufti of Egypt, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, says the conflict between good and evil is old and eternal, and therefore "the fierce campaign against Islam and its ulema is not something new." He says: "No attention should be given to those who disparage the ulema or cast doubt on their intellectual and cultural qualifications. Those are people whose faith has vanished from their hearts, and no good is expected of them because they have openly declared their hostility to Islam and its ulema. He adds that at the same time "we should expose their falsehoods and react to their skepticism, perversity, and malicious ideas." Tantawi notes that an attack on the defenders of Islam is an attack on Islam itself.

"Islamic preacher" Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, a Cairo University professor, says these campaigns against ulema and preachers "strike at Islam itself." He adds that they believe that "striking at Islam can only be done by hitting preachers, ulema, and symbols of the Islamic intellect."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq, former secretary general of the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs, says the aim of "this ferocious onslaught on the Muslim ulema and symbols" by some magazines and "the suspect propaganda campaigns" are designed to "prevent the element of religion from having an impact on living affairs."

Dr. Marzuq says that the campaign by certain magazines against Muslim ulema "is one link in a chain of attacks on Islam itself hoping to replace mature Islamic ideas with materialistic ideas and views."

Dr. Mahmud Mazru'ah, a professor at al-Azhar University, believes that "secularists and atheists everywhere and all the time have no other mission but to attack all regimes that are based on faith, values, and principles." He says: "The secularists are void of values and faith and have no values or principles to adopt. Perhaps the most dangerous thing for them is Islam."

YEMENI ENVOY VIEWS ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN YEMEN

Page 20 features a 1,200-word interview with Ahmad Luqman, Yemeni delegate at the Arab league and ambassador in Cairo, conducted by Tariq 'Abdallah.

The ambassador first discusses in detail the domestic situation in Yemen, and the "good" relations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Replying to a question, he says: "In my opinion, the Islamic movement in Yemen has no need to explain itself in light of its clear and publicized programs, ideas, and proposals. I feel that its uniqueness is apparent in its rejection of violence as a means of achieving its goals and its acceptance of coexistence while competing with other political parties and movements on the principles of openness, pluralism, and the peaceful transition of power. Perhaps this is reason enough for the Islamic movement's uniqueness."

WRITER URGES ISLAMIC WORLD TO REACT TO BOSNIA EVENTS

In a 400-word article on page 24, al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf asks why the Muslims are waiting to "do something to prove that they are worthy of survival, not to mention to show their ability to play an effective role in international politics."

He says: "It is no use reiterating that the stand of the world organizations, represented by the United Nations and the Security Council, is conspiratorial rather than inactive or hypocritical, as we used to say in flattery."

He adds: "What is feasible and useful is for the Muslims to realize that they are facing a genuine test, the test of answering the question 'to be or not to be.' The Islamic world—states, organizations, and institutions—should act to force the big powers to adopt a respectable stand, and the Islamic forces should move to support the Bosnian people's steadfastness with arms, money, food, medicine, and even with volunteers. Otherwise, for the foreseeable future this people will be dropped from any world calculations, except as a source of raw material, limited skilled manpower, as a market for advanced technological products, and as a testing ground for weapons and diseases."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 14 Jul

NC2007150595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Shukri Views Conspiracy Against Bosnian Muslisms
2. Islamic Group Said Behind Attempt on Mubarak
3. Writers Object To War With Sudan
4. Muslims Said Targeted By Jewish-Owned Media

SHUKRI VIEWS CONSPIRACY AGAINST BOSNIAN MUSLIMS

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri comments on the tragic events in Bosnia in an approximately 600-word item on pages 1 and 8. Shukri urges Arab and Islamic people and governments to face the "international conspiracy" against Bosnian Muslims, in which the UN is an accomplice. Shukri commends Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's call for supplying weapons to the Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves. He also calls on mosque preachers and writers to highlight the Muslims' plight.

ISLAMIC GROUP SAID BEHIND ATTEMPT ON MUBARAK

An approximately 150-word report on page 1 cites a statement by the Islamic Jihad in Gaza as saying the Islamic Group in Egypt is behind the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The statement notes that preparations for this operation began about a year ago and that it was supposed to be carried out during a previous African summit, which President Mubarak did not attend. The statement points out that seven members of the group took part in the operation.

WRITERS OBJECT TO WAR WITH SUDAN

In an approximately 3,500-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn discusses the rising tension between Egypt and Sudan. He notes that all opposition parties and the Muslim Brotherhood have voiced their dissatisfaction at the "serious deterioration" in Egyptian-Sudanese relations and expressed the need to resolve differences peacefully. Commenting on the recent discovery at Cairo Airport of bags containing materiel said to implicate Sudanese authorities in supporting terrorism in Egypt, Husayn points out that some security officials do not shy away from lying and fabricating evidence to create tension and antagonism. He cited his own imprisonment for alleged possession of leaflets as an example. He describes the statement linking the Muslim Brotherhood to the "international terrorist organization" led by Dr. Hasan al- Turabi as "nonsense." He points out that the announcement of the discovery of these bags was meant to create a propaganda "bang" that serves the interests of those who seek to "ignite fire," adding that such matters should be resolved by the security agencies in both countries and not through the media. He adds: "We demand that Sudanese authorities are treated the same way we treat Israel. All suspicions and accusations of Israeli sabotage movements are being handled with extreme prudence and without a media uproar, isn't this so?"

Husayn adds: "We reject in principle any type of war between Egypt and Sudan. However, if war breaks out, God forbid, it will not be short and easy, as some imagine. It will be a long, drawn- out war of attrition." He argues that although Sudan seems to lack air power and air defense capabilities, as soon as hostilities begin, economic and military supplies will pour into Sudan from those who are "inciting us to start the war." This will give those who have an interest in this war—Israel, the United States, and Britain—the chance to implement their plan to separate south Sudan so that they can control the Nile water, he adds. Concluding, he wonders if a country's national forces could influence decisionmaking or prevent a war. He says it is unreasonable in a "civilized" or "semi-civilized" nation that the lives of 60 million people can be decided by the president alone, who possesses the key to their life or death.

Writing on the same topic, Dr. Mahmud Himayah, professor at the College of Theology in Asyut, points out that the assassination attempt against President Mubarak is being used by "enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation" to drive a wedge between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. In an approximately 1,400-word article on page 2, Dr. Himayah argues that a war between the Egyptian and Sudanese people will only serve the interests of the "Zionists, West, and enemies of Islam." Noting that for years the West and Zionists have been pushing President Mubarak toward a war with Sudan, he adds: "I say it loud and clear in the name of Islam that any battle between two Muslim countries is an ill-omened battle and not a jihad for the sake of God. And he who is killed in such battles is not a martyr."

MUSLIMS SAID TARGETED BY JEWISH-INFLUENCED MEDIA

In an approximately 500-word article on page 9, Kamal Habib writes on Muslim minorities and the role of the media in shaping public opinion. He refers to the Oklahoma City bombing as a showcase of the media's influence. Following the bombing, he says, the U.S. media accused Muslims of carrying out the operation. As a result, Muslims in the United States were assaulted, mosques were set on fire, and Islamic centers received bomb threats. Although investigators later acquitted Muslims of any involvement in the operation, the Jewish-American lobby and the Jewish media continued to distort the image of Muslims and to cast doubt on their activity. Noting that American citizens are controlled by the media, which are owned by Jews, he calls on Muslims to establish their own media to counter the accusations against Muslims and explain the truth of Islam.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Suicide Operations, Other Issues

MM2707091895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 3

[Interview with PA President Yasir 'Arafat by Salih Qallab in Gaza "hours after the suicide operation near Tel Aviv"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qallab] You warned against the latest suicide operation days before it occurred. What did you base that warning on?

['Arafat] The follow-ups by our various organs and the investigations carried out with several parties made us certain that such an operation would take place at that particular time as the negotiations with the Israelis reached a decisive point and as we were on the verge of extending the influence of the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] to the West Bank.

We have seized evidence and documents including authentic military and civilian identity cards, which we do not know how they got hold of, proving beyond any doubt that there are contacts and cooperation with some Israeli extremist forces.

[Qallab] Are these Israeli forces military or civilian?

['Arafat] Both military and civilian.

[Qallab] Have the Israeli officials admitted that?

['Arafat] Yes, they have admitted that and they told us different stories about it. Once they said that the items in question were stolen, while others said that the items were taken from their positions in an unknown way.

[Qallab] From which party did you seize these identity cards? Was it Hamas?

['Arafat] Yes, we seized these identity cards when they were in the possession of Hamas. That indicates there is coordination between those who carried out that operation and some influential circles in Israel. I expect you remember the statements made by some Jewish extremists 10 days ago saying they were sorry that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM] had not carried out new operations. Everyone read these statements.

[Qallab] Do you believe that these extremist Jewish organizations would shed the blood of their own Jewish people for political purposes?

['Arafat] Yes, and that was proved when David Ben-Gurion decided to sink a ship carrying a large number of Jewish immigrants at Haifa port as a result of which 284 immigrants drowned, and also when, on the eve of the declaration of the State of Israel, another ship was sunk opposite Tel Aviv, and also when some Jewish synagogues were blown up in Baghdad and Alexandria to force the Iraqi and Egyptian Jews to emigrate to Palestine.

I want to say here that the aim of these suicide operations is not only to prevent the extension of the PNA to the West Bank but also to strike at the very heart of the Palestinian economy. These operations have led to a Palestinian economic catastrophe. On the pretext of these operations Israel closed the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for 186 days in one year.

As a result of that closure our losses throughout a whole year amounted to $6 million a day whether in the form of wages of workers who worked in Israel or in the form of agricultural and industrial exports. This means that the suicide operations resulted in our losing half the amount the donor states were scheduled to pay us over the next five years.

[Qallab] Do you believe that those who carry out such operations are aware of this?

['Arafat] I am not talking about the individual perpetrators, who are misled and most of whom are children who are systematically and intensively brainwashed. I am talking about a plot in which many parties take part. Here I would like to ask: Is it a coincidence that whenever we get close to signing an agreement with Israel regarding the West Bank, such operations occur?

[Qallab] The problem is that people who hear such charges want evidence and documents.

['Arafat] I have told you that we have seized Israeli military and civilian identity cards and that the Israelis have officially admitted the leakage of these identity cards, which are used to facilitate the movement of those who carry out such operations. Furthermore, one of the Jihad Movement leaders has admitted that those who carried out the notorious Beit Lid operation this spring spent the night before the operation in the village of al-Dihniyah south of Gaza in the direction of the desert. That was a village used by Israel for agents, it was under extremely strict guard, and nobody was allowed to enter it, not even the joint Palestinian patrols.

The Islamic Jihad leader admitted that he sent the perpetrators of the Beit Lid operation to spend the night before the operation in the village which was under the direct control of Israeli Army intelligence. The question now is who took those people in the early morning from that village and moved them to Beit Lid, 100 km away, during which they passed through seven Israeli checkpoints?

[Qallab] What you are saying is very serious indeed. Does it mean that there is Israeli collusion at high levels?

['Arafat] I have evidence and there are confessions and there is a court ruling.

[Qallab] Why do you not raise these facts with your Israeli partners in the peace process?

['Arafat] I have conveyed these facts to everyone.... I have informed the Israelis and I have informed the two states that sponsor the peace process, and I have informed the European states, Egypt, Jordan, and numerous parties concerned.

[Qallab] What did Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin say when you gave him these facts?

['Arafat] He took notice and ordered that a trench two meters deep and one meter wide be dug around the village of al-Dihniyah so that entry to and exit from it would only be possible through one gate.

[Qallab] Do you not believe that such influence by the Israeli extremist forces, denoting clear penetration of the military establishment, could lead to an Israeli civil war in the future?

['Arafat] I do not wish to give matters greater significance than they deserve but I do emphasize that the influence of the Israeli extremist forces is now considerable and it poses a real threat to the peace process.

[Qallab] Why did Hamas recently announce the discontinuation of dialogue with you?

['Arafat] You should address that question to them. They have the answer.

[Qallab] They say that they stopped the dialogue with you because you arrested their senior leaders in Gaza.

['Arafat] Hamas leaders promised us that they would stop their operations from the Gaza Strip but, despite the fact that we explained to them how detrimental such operations were to our economy and our nascent entity, they did not honor that promise and they continued to pursue their old policy which seeks to implicate the PNA. Here I ask: Why do they refrain from carrying out operations that would implicate other states and just seek to implicate the PNA?

[Qallab] After the discontinuation of the dialogue, do you not fear that Hamas might go underground and carry out operations such as those carried out in Egypt and Algeria?

['Arafat] The dialogue with Hamas has not stopped. The announcement of the discontinuation of the dialogue came from one person living in Amman. The dialogue on the ground has not been discontinued.

[Qallab] You speak as if Hamas is one thing at home and quite another abroad.

['Arafat] There are some in the Hamas leadership who understand our viewpoint and believe that the joint task should be that of building the state which the Palestinian people dream of.

[Qallab] Are these parties at home or abroad?

['Arafat] They are at home and abroad, and we hope that the view of these parties will be the source of decisionmaking in Hamas. We open our hearts to them so that together we may build the state of Palestine and fulfill the dreams of the Palestinian people.

[Qallab] What about the mediation of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood between you and Hamas? Is it still continuing?

['Arafat] Yes, and the same applies to the Islamic Movement beyond the green line (inside the territories occupied since 1948).

[Qallab] What is the position of the Islamic Movement beyond the green line on the latest operation?

['Arafat] As you were in Gaza when the operation took place, you have presumably heard that the Islamic Movement beyond the green line has, through Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, condemned that operation, seeing it as an operation against the Palestinian people's interests and placing it in the same category as the Israeli extremists.

[Qallab] On the matter of continuation of the dialogue, does what applies to Hamas also apply to the IJM?

['Arafat] Yes. As you know, the IJM carried out operations that harmed the peace process.

[Qallab] It has been claimed that there is an agreement between you and the IJM. Is this true?

['Arafat] No, the agreement was with one group of them but the other group, especially those abroad, did not abide by what was agreed upon.

[Qallab] The negotiations between you and Israel were suspended after the Ramat Gan operation. When will the negotiations be resumed?

['Arafat] We do not know exactly when. We have not discussed that with the Israelis yet. We are now busy solving the problems resulting from Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank after the operation, preventing thousands of workers from going to work. That is why the Islamic Movement beyond the green line said the operation was against the Palestinian people's interests.

[Qallab] At the request of the Palestinian side, the negotiations were supposed to move from Zikhron Ya'aqov to Cairo and not the Dead Sea. Why do you prefer abroad?

['Arafat] It is not a question of inside or outside. The problem is that our negotiating delegation was the target of assault by Israeli extremists in Zikhron Ya'aqov. Therefore, and because we do not agree to our delegation negotiating under pressure, we preferred to move the negotiations to Egypt.

[Qallab] Will you again call for a move to Egypt if the negotiations are resumed?

['Arafat] Yes, we will request and insist that the negotiations be moved to Egypt to free our negotiators from the pressure of the Israeli extremists.

[Qallab] Have you discussed this matter with President Mubarak?

['Arafat] Yes, and it was agreed in the presence of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the tripartite meeting that last Sunday's meeting would be held in Cairo.

[Qallab] This means that the Israelis violated that agreement when the negotiations moved to 'En Gedi instead of Cairo.

['Arafat] No, they came back and said they preferred the negotiations to continue there, where the delegations would be close to the decisionmaking centers.

[Qallab] The Alexandria tripartite meeting was supposed to produce tangible achievements particularly as President Mubarak raised the issue of the female prisoners and secured a promise that they would be released within days.

['Arafat] Yes, the Israelis did indeed promise to release the detained sisters.

[Qallab] A full week has passed but nothing has happened in this connection.

['Arafat] Actually, certain legal steps have to be taken before the sisters are released. I believe that had it not been for the latest operation these steps would have been completed and the detained sisters would have been in their homes by now.

[Qallab] In the wake of the latest operation, will the release be delayed?

['Arafat] I hope not, because the case of the Palestinian female detainees is on our conscience every moment.

[Qallab] A few days ago the focus was on the points still outstanding in the negotiations, but now and after the operation, things have gone backward and the focus now is on the question of the resumption of these negotiations.

['Arafat] That is true. The operation put a weapon in the hands of the Israelis, enabling them to evade the deadlines we set previously for completing the negotiations, signing the new agreements, and beginning to implement them according to specific timetables.

[Qallab] Now that the negotiations are stumbling, why do the Americans not intervene again?

['Arafat] The Americans have intervened more than once and they are closely following the course of the negotiations. Dennis Ross and some of his colleagues attended some of the meetings in previous negotiation sessions.

[Qallab] But Israeli intransigence is continuing.

['Arafat] We have managed to contain some of the differences and narrow the gap between some views but there is still a wide gap on issues which we consider to be essential and major.

[Qallab] By that do you mean the water issue and the Hebron issue?

['Arafat] The water and the Hebron issues, and other issues pertaining to security and Palestinian jurisdiction.

[Qallab] We thought the Americans would be more serious about putting pressure on Israel to prevent it from delaying the implementation of the agreements concluded under U.S. sponsorship.

['Arafat] Actually, the Americans have made and are making efforts they should be thanked for. I have mentioned to you that Dennis Ross, the Middle East coordinator, personally attended and directly participated three times in the negotiations in the recent sessions in the region.

[Qallab] Now, after what happened, have there been any new contacts between you and the Americans?

['Arafat] Of course, we are really in constant contact with the Americans.

[Qallab] A short while ago you spoke about the massive Palestinian economic losses resulting from the suicide operations. Our question here is: Are the donor states fulfilling the promises they made?

['Arafat] It is now common knowledge that the donor states have not honored their promises, not in the slightest, but we have not despaired and we are continuing our efforts...and we have hopes.

[Qallab] In light of all that, what was the deficit in the PNA's budget last year?

['Arafat] According to the Palestinian Finance Ministry, our deficit last year was $218 million.

[Qallab] You have been collecting taxes for a while now. Do these tax revenues not cover a part of the PNA's expenditure?

['Arafat] Of course, and we are making great efforts in that field despite the obstacles and the continuous complications resulting from the blockade imposed on the [Gaza] Strip and the West Bank after every suicide operation.

[Qallab] You have complained more than once that there has been no Palestinian Rothschild. Now, especially after your meeting with Palestinian businessmen in Amman, has a Rothschild appeared?

['Arafat] Yes, the wheel is beginning to turn and move in the right direction and many Palestinian businessmen are beginning to join hands with us in sharing the responsibility of building the Palestinian state.

[Qallab] Are you satisfied with what has been achieved so far in that respect?

['Arafat] I believe it is a good start. On this occasion I wish to extend my profound thanks on behalf of the Palestinian people to those who have entered that field.

[Qallab] Is there anything tangible on the ground?

['Arafat] Yes, there are a large number of banks and there are a number of projects on which agreement has been reached and implementation started.

[Qallab] Will the Palestine financial empire you once talked about be at the disposal of the Palestinian state?

['Arafat] I did not talk about a financial empire. I talked about the great Palestinian financial capabilities which could turn the desired Palestinian state into the Singapore of the Middle East.

[Qallab] In light of last year's experience, do you still have that conviction?

['Arafat] Yes, and that is why, for the wheel to really begin turning, it is important that we should complete this agreement with the Israelis and hold the elections as soon as possible. Democracy means security and stability, and stability means that Palestinian, Arab, and foreign capital would begin to flow in to launch projects and rebuild the ruined Palestinian infrastructure.

[Qallab] You talk about fraternal Arab capital. Is there anything really serious in that respect?

['Arafat] You know that the Gulf crisis caused a catastrophe in the full sense of the word.

[Qallab] Do you not believe that Palestinian businessmen could contact the Arab brothers with a view to holding an Arab economic conference to aid the PNA?

['Arafat] There have been some contacts, and some joint Arab establishments and companies have been founded, and we hope they will begin their operations in the very near future.

[Qallab] In previous statements, you said that Iran was looking for a seat on the train of the Middle East peace process through Gaza. Are these attempts still continuing?

['Arafat] That is true. Iran openly provides aid for some Palestinian factions in order to be able, through these factions, to influence the course of events and get a foothold in the peace process in the region.

[Qallab] Have you, the PNA, seized anything tangible in this connection?

['Arafat] Yes. Iran does not conceal this. It has frequently talked about the funds it gave the 10 [opposition] factions.

[Qallab] When will you move to the West Bank?

['Arafat] As soon as the agreement with the Israelis is completed.

[Qallab] Palestinian organs are now noticeably in control in the West Bank.

['Arafat] Yes, we have the real control in the West Bank. The PNA runs everything in the West Bank. The Israelis know that and they know that in reality they only control some positions and the public roads. It is the PNA that is managing the affairs of the West Bank ranging from education, to health, to most aspects of security and living conditions.

I know that my people in the West Bank are now suffering a lot and I say to them that it is the same suffering endured by their brothers in the Gaza Strip in the past, but that will end soon and we will have our independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, God willing.

[Qallab] Mr. President, who was the person who got the first Palestinian passport?

['Arafat] We gave the first Palestinian passport to President Mubarak in honor and appreciation of his and Egypt's great efforts in support of the Palestinian cause.

[Qallab] Is he the only Arab leader awarded the Palestinian passport?

['Arafat] We have given the passport, of which we are proud, to more than one Arab president and leader but we gave the first passport to President Mubarak.

'Arafat Meets With Chirac, Juppe in Paris

Comments on Peace Talks

AU2607182895 Paris AFP in English
1725 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, July 26 (AFP) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in France Wednesday for a one-day visit during which he met with President Jacques Chirac and visited his wife and new baby daughter.

"We asked President Chirac to help us to push the talks forward," 'Arafat said after a one-hour meeting with the French president, noting that France and the European Union had a "very important" role to play in the Middle East peace process.

Israeli-PLO talks on extending Palestinian self-rule were suspended after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a bus in a Tel Aviv suburb Monday, killing six Israelis and wounding 32 others.

'Arafat said: "We are at the end of these talks, and we need direct contacts with the Palestinian leadership. This is why it is very important that the Palestinian delegation be very close to us (in Gaza)."

His remarks were in response to an announcement earlier Wednesday by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that the talks would resume "soon in a European capital."

During the meeting with Chirac, the PLO leader also expressed disappointment that no date had been fixed for the resumption of the talks, presidential spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said.

Chirac said he hoped talks would advance, enabling Palestinians to have "a roof and a job and understand very quickly what peace can bring."

The French president also briefed 'Arafat on a Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona in November, saying he hoped for active participation from the Palestinians.

On economic aid, Chirac said he hoped that projects would take shape, while saying he was worried that the level of investment might be insufficient.

France will be "very vigilant and very attentive in support of carring out these these projects and these investments," Colonna quoted the president as saying.

On the subject of setting up a regional bank for the Middle East, Chirac and 'Arafat agreed that it was important to put into action available funds, without waiting for the organisation to be set up.

Prior to his meeting with Chirac, 'Arafat visited the American Hospital in Neuilly, in a western suburb of Paris, where his wife Suha gave birth Monday to their first child, a girl they named Zahwa after his mother.

Asked about his new baby, a tired-looking 'Arafat told journalists: "The baby and its mother are well."

"I hope that your daughter will grow up in a peaceful environment, with lots of greenery," Chirac was quoted by Colonna, as saying.

'Arafat also met National Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin, Prime Minister Alain Juppe and Foreign Minister Herve de Charette.

Commenting on the Israeli-PLO talks on extending Palestinian self-rule, Juppe said it was imperative "to resume discussion as quickly as possible, however serious the attack in Tel Aviv, which we deplore."

Speaking after his meeting with 'Arafat, Juppe said he hoped Palestinian elections could take place in the autumn.

He added that "Europe was very present," in terms of backing the elections.

Adviser Assesses Meetings

JN2607201095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, following his meeting with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris today, stated that he preferred to resume Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the Middle East and not in Europe because it is necessary to hold direct contacts with Palestinian negotiators after arriving at the final stage of the negotiations.

Earlier today, President 'Arafat met with the French National Assembly president, and he is due to meet with French Prime Minister Alain Juppe shortly. President 'Arafat will leave France this evening after a short visit to the French capital, Paris.

President 'Arafat also met with French President Jacques Chirac and senior French Government officials at noon today. Details of President Yasir 'Arafat's visit are in the following dialogue with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, by correspondent Yusuf al-Qazzaz:

[Begin recording] [al-Qazzaz] How do you view the first day of President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to France?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The visit will last only one day. 'Arafat will leave France this evening as the visit was intended to be a short one. He was received at Orly Airport by French officials and Arab ambassadors to France. He then moved to the headquarters of the French National Assembly, where he was received by the Assembly president. The two then held a one-hour round of talks on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. This was followed by a dinner banquet given in President Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] honor.

'Arafat then met with French President Jacques Chirac for approximately one hour. It was a successful meeting during which they tackled French-Palestinian relations and the support of France and Europe for the peace process and Palestinian rights. President Abu-'Ammar then met with French Prime Minister Alain Juppe at the French Prime Ministry. They held profound discussions on Palestinian-French relations. As you know, Juppe, who was foreign minister a few months ago, visited Gaza, met with President Abu-'Ammar, and held lengthy talks with him. The two sides finished talks on these issues, including Palestinian-French relations and ways to promote them.

Juppe reiterated France's full support for Palestinian rights, the peace process, and the Palestinian National Authority. President Abu-'Ammar will leave France for the homeland this evening after receiving the French foreign minister at his place of residence shortly.

[Al-Qazzaz] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, we can say that President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to France was successful by all standards?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The visit was successful, and the meetings were positive and fruitful. He was accorded a warm reception. As I have told you, he was received by the president, the prime minister, and the National Assembly president.

[Al-Qazzaz] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, we wish you every success. [end recording]

'Arafat Returns From Visit

JN2707105795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from Paris this morning after a short visit to France ,where he met with French President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Alain Juppe, and other French officials.

President 'Arafat's talks centered on the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, Europe's role in advancing the peace process, and the means of strengthening French-Palestinian relations.

Al-Husayni Describes Settlers' Attack

JN2607130295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jewish settlers today opened fire on the house of a prominent Palestinian figure, Faysal al-Husayni, in east Jerusalem. Faysal al-Husayni has explained to our colleague Ahmad Birru the circumstances of this attack.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] As a matter of fact, at least some 20 bullets were shot at the house, and not only five bullets. A group of settlers — the same group that carries out provocative actions in front of the Orient House on a daily basis and that opened fire in the past and tried to attack me in the al-Birah area — today carried out provocative actions in front of the house and then opened fire extensively. Some youths from the area as well as some guards were present and managed to repel them with stones.

In fact, this group of right-wing Israeli settlers is very fanatic and acts irrationally. I am sure that they came for a provocative purpose and to precipitate a clash so that they could open fire and kill people. [end recording]

On Jordan Visit, Ramat Gan Bombing

JN2607144995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 26 July 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA official in charge of the Jerusalem file, by 'Arif Salim; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA]: Good afternoon.

[Al-Husayni] Good afternoon.

[Salim] Mr. Faysal: You have recently returned from a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Would you please tell us about the goals and results of this visit?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, this visit was made at the invitation of the University of Jordan and the al-Yarmuk University. I was asked to take part in two seminars at the two universities. The two seminars were conducted appropriately, God be praised for this. The deliberations held in these two seminars reflected a high sense of responsibility.

[Salim] During your visit to Jordan, Abu-al-'Abd [Faysal al-Husayni], have preparations been made for the visit to Amman by His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, the preparations began before the start of my visit to Jordan. But now, and given the recent developments, I do not know whether the date for this visit will be honored, or whether the visit will be postponed a little bit until things clear up with regard to the start of the negotiations [with Israel] and other relevant issues.

[Salim] Can you tell us about the story of the Palestinian Golan?

[Al-Husayni] In the aftermath of the year 1948, a certain area remained under the Egyptian administration: namely, Gaza. The West Bank was placed under Jordanian control. As for Syria, it controlled part of the Palestinian territories; namely, the al-Hammah area. Resolution 242 provides for Israeli withdrawal from all these territories. By the way, the Palestinian al-Hammah might have been the first Palestinian territory recaptured by the Palestinian fedayeen, albeit for a few hours, in the years 1968-1969.

[Salim] Given the provocative Israeli escalation, do you not believe that Orient House, just like other Palestinian national institutions in Jerusalem, is under threat?

[Al-Husayni] Undoubtedly, there is a clear Israeli scheme in this regard, not to mention the Israeli rightist provocations targeting Orient House and other Palestinian institutions. The Israeli rightists first seek to undermine the status of Orient House. Once they manage to achieve this goal, they will aim to undermine the status of other Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. This requires a Palestinian rallying as well as a firm Palestinian position. We must have open channels of communication with the world states and Arab states to protect these Palestinian institutions.

[Salim] Since you are the official in charge of the Jerusalem file, given the fact that Jerusalem is threatened with Israeli absorption, and to confer on the battle for Jerusalem its true dimensions and its Arab and Islamic significance, you have made moves in the Arab arena as part of an effort to form committees in defense of Jerusalem. Have you made any accomplishments in this regard?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, there have been multifaceted moves in this regard. We have started efforts to launch committees in defense of Jerusalem modeled on those operating in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Some accomplishments have been made in this regard in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Efforts to create similar committees elsewhere are being made. Moreover, an Islamic summit has called for the creation of the Jerusalem Bank [bayt al-mal]. His majesty the Moroccan monarch is currently working to draft the bases of this bank. As I have just told you, multifaceted moves are being made in this regard. Progress has been made in this regard in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Efforts to create such committees elsewhere are being made.

[Salim] Brother Abu-al-'Abd: In the face of the stepped-up Israeli settlement activities in Jerusalem, a Palestinian demographic confrontation, if we may put it, needs to be put up in order to safeguard the Palestinian-Israeli demographic equation in Jerusalem. The issue of construction in Jerusalem is a problem facing the Jerusalemites. Have you identified any solutions to this issue?

[Al-Husayni] With regard to this issue, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced the allocation of $30 million for housing in Jerusalem. Nonetheless, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia later decided to deposit this amount at the Islamic Development Bank with the understanding that it will be used to finance housing projects in the whole of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Jerusalem. I can say that some steps have been started in this regard. Some $17 million of this amount have been allocated for some housing projects. Most of these projects will be carried out in the West Bank. Three of these projects will be implemented in Jerusalem. Two of these projects are housing projects, whereas the third project concerns the rehabilitation of cultural buildings.

[Salim] However, it seems that Olmert's municipality is forging ahead in its plan to demolish several houses in Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] That is true. The Jerusalem municipality steps up these measures on a daily basis, although the Israeli Ministry of Interior has decided to suspend such demolitions until they are investigated. The demolitions apparently target violators in Arab Jerusalem. They do not touch violators in Israeli neighborhoods. The law is being used arbitrarily. We hope that most of the Israeli demolition orders will be repealed through pressures and through a clarification of facts, God willing.

[Salim] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Israel is obviously taking preemptive measures nowadays to force a fait accompli with regard to its occupation and settlement activities on the negotiating table. Some of these measures are meant to contain the city of Jerusalem. What is the appropriate reaction to this? Do you not believe that the Jerusalem issue needs to be raised seriously at the negotiating table?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, whenever the Jerusalem issue is raised at the negotiating table, it is always raised seriously. What is required right now is that we raise the Jerusalem issue and all final status issues immediately without waiting until the passage of two years. It seems that a part of the Israeli public and the Israeli political echelons support this position. It has become obvious to all that if all the current state of affairs is maintained, and if Israel attempts to force its own dictates and solution, the overall peace process will collapse.

[Salim] Mr. Faysal: A last question concerning the future of the peace process against the background of the recent Ramat Gan operation.

[Al-Husayni] It is very obvious that the party that masterminded this operation and the one who carried it out primarily sought to interrupt the political process. Consequently, we would like to tell the Israelis that they should not suspend the peace process if they truly seek peace, because such a thing would be a gift presented to the parties that carried out this operation. Hence, we believe that the appropriate response is to continue this process and to intensify the negotiations to implement the second part of the Declaration of Principles in preparation for the final status negotiations.

[Salim] At the end of this interview, we would like to thank you Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority. Thank you.

Islamic Jihad 'Determined' To Continue Attacks

AU2607113895 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 25 Jul 95 p 9

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of Islamic Jihad's Shaqaqi-'Adwah faction, by Khalil Abied in Damascus; date not given: "Calm Before the Storm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abied] Mr. Al-Shaqaqi, your organization has not carried out any suicide attacks against Israel in months. Have you decided to end such operations?

[Al-Shaqaqi] No. This is the calm before the storm. We are determined to continue the martyr operations until the liberation of Palestine. Sooner or later you will hear from us. It is only a question of logistics and the RIGHT time for such operations.

[Abied] You are sending young people to death. You are taking advantage of their desperation, you brainwash them, and glorify death to them. What kind of liberation strategy is this?

[Al-Shaqaqi] That is not at all true. These young people are brainwashing us. They are constantly exerting pressure on us to send them into martyr operations. I have received dozens of letters from people asking to be sent into such operations as quickly as possible.

[Abied] It is hard to understand that people should be so anxious to be sent to their death, even if they are desperate.

[Al-Shaqaqi] The western mentality cannot understand that, because it understands nothing of our religion. In Islam, death is not the end of life. The martyr who sacrifices himself to his religion and his Islamic country will go to paradise, which is where the believer's real life happens. These religious reasons play the decisive role. This also explains why young people want to sacrifice themselves. Some of the young people who have sacrificed themselves came from well-off families and had successful university careers. The national and political reasons also play an important role. These young people can see with their own eyes how the Israelis are stealing their country, how they are suppressing their people and arresting and killing their friends. This explains the consequence that for them, death as a martyr is the only way to free themselves and their country.

[Abied] But one can also fight for one's rights with political means.

[Al-Shaqaqi] We have learned from experience that political means have been fruitless. We have been ignored by the world for many years. It was only through our fight and our uprising that we could force the world to take care of us and try to find a solution for our problem.

[Abied] But your attacks have made life for your fellow citizens more difficult. Israel has closed its borders to the Palestinian territories and thousands of people have lost their jobs.

[Al-Shaqaqi] First, Israel is responsible for all the difficulties and hardships to which the Palestinians have been exposed. Second, we have not carried out any operations for months and, nevertheless, Israel has confiscated thousands of acres of Palestinian soil and detained thousands of Palestinians. This proves that Israel does not need a pretext to continue its policy of oppression against the Palestinians. This also proves that Israel is not interested in peace but wants to keep our land.

[Abied] Israel is currently conducting peace negotiations with the PLO and Syria. It has already concluded a peace treaty with Jordan. Is it the objective of your organization to destroy peace?

[Al-Shaqaqi] What we see is not peace. The Israelis have freed themselves of Gaza, which was like a thorn in their eyes. All they want on the West Bank is to get rid of the Palestinians but keep as much land as possible.

What happened with Jordan is only the proclamation of a secret marriage contract that existed for many years. The Jordanian monarchy has always had excellent secret contacts with the Zionist enemies. With Syria and because of the Israeli obstacles, it will take a long time to achieve a fair peace. On the contrary, I am convinced that this peace will lead to further wars in the future.

[Abied] Why?

[Al-Shaqaqi] It is a peace that is based on the current balance of power. Israel is currently stronger than all Arab countries. Yet, this will not always remain so. Israel wants to use its strong position to enforce a peace that secures it a dominating role in the region. The United States fully supports Israel in this attempt. How can it be that 4 million Israelis play a greater role than several hundred million Muslims and Arabs? They would not regard that as peace but as a violation of their international and religious dignity.

[Abied] Do you think that such a peace would exist only between the regimes and not between the peoples?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Arabic and Islamic peoples would reject such an unfair peace. We see today the first signs of such a rejection. In most Arab countries committees were founded that fight against the normalization of relations with Israel. The number of people who find out day after day that this peace is unfair and offensive is increasing.

[Abied] Since you are not seeking peace with Israel, what do you want?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We do not have a problem with the Jews. The problem is the existence of the Jewish state of Israel. The land of Palestine is Arabic and Islamic and belongs to us. The Jews can live among us in an Arabic and Islamic Palestine with equal rights. We would respect their religion and their tradition.

[Abied] What is your relationship to the Palestinian government authority in Gaza and its head, Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We do not have any relationship with 'Arafat and his people. Our policy is that we will not shake hands with he who shook hands with the Zionist enemy. 'Arafat is trying to stop our Jihad against the Zionist enemy. But he will not succeed.

[Abied] Does that mean that you will wage the Jihad also against the Palestinian government?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Not at all. We will never raise our arms against Palestinians. That is our clear policy, even if 'Arafat were to continue his suppressive measures against us.

'Islamist Leader' Cited on Suicide Operation

MM2707100595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "The Suicide Operation Confirms the Difficulty of 'Subjugating' the Military Wing of Hamas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — The operation that took place in Tel Aviv the day before yesterday has proven that there was no agreement between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Palestinian National Authority. Or at least it proves that the talk of a political agreement or a temporary truce between the two sides does not meet with the approval of all Hamas' elements and leaders and that some of its military cadres are ready to obstruct any political line taken by the "pragmatists" who wish to form a political party which would enter into a political dialogue with the Authority and then participate in the experiment of the forthcoming elections of the autonomous Palestinian Council.

According to an Islamist leader, the Tel Aviv operation reflects a lack of desire by the Hamas cadres and in particular the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam battalions, the military wing of the movement, to "lay down their arms, concentrate on political activity, and pursue the desire for the formation of a political party."

The Islamist leader told AL-HAYAH: "Not all of them agree to this, which essentially means the continuation of military action as one of Hamas' activities alongside its political, ideological, and social activities, with the military action concentrating its activities in the areas which are still under Israeli occupation."

The prominent Hamas leader told AL-HAYAH that "a historic decision" was made concerning the matter of the formation of a party and that contacts were held in this regard, and that the "discussions centered on the timing of the announcement and the way in which the other forms of activities would be conducted." He said this has led to the emergence of a number of currents within Hamas between those inside [Palestine] and those outside it and between the military and the politicians and the need for coordination among them.

The Islamist leader affirmed that there was no vital link between the implementation of the Tel Aviv operation and 25 July, the date fixed for agreement on the widening of autonomous rule, "because nobody can fix a date for any operation, due to practical and security reasons." The Islamist leader, who declined to reveal his name, summarized the results and circumstances of the operation as follows:

"— A message to Yasir 'Arafat (the Palestinian president), who began to believe the daily reports submitted to him by his security departments saying that the Islamist opposition represented by Hamas and Islamic Jihad have submitted to the Authority as a result of the blows they received or as a result of dialogue.

"— cessation of the policy of arrogance, blackmail, and insults pursued against the Islamists and the Islamic opposition. The forces of the Palestinian Authority had insulted Mahmud al-Zahhar, the official Hamas spokesman, while 'Arafat had postponed the dialogues which were expected to take place between him and the Hamas Movement in Khartoum as a result of the mediation carried out by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, between the two sides.

"— Continuation of the desire for military-jihad action and the absence of any agreement or truce. There is no truth in what was said about the temporary cessation of military operations to give the Authority the opportunity to expand the autonomous rule in the West Bank, since there is no actual desire for the expansion of the autonomous rule, as the whole thing was nothing more than an exposed plot to deceive the Palestinian people, because the Israelis wanted to secure the help of a new Palestinian mechanism in an area of 3 percent of the Bank.

"— Undermining the negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israelis and bringing them to a halt, because we consider them humiliating and insulting negotiations.

"— Implementation of the operation in the 1948 territory affirms to all that all the lands of Palestine constitute a legitimate arena for holy struggle. Furthermore, any operation carried out there will have a wide psychological and political effect which would surpass the effect of any operation in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank territories that were occupied in 1967.

"— No specific day could be set for any operation, but timing operations to take place during the period of negotiations was important, because 'Arafat is about to concede, once and for all, the entire rights of the Palestinian people to the Bank and was about to accept the Israeli agreement which will give the Palestinians only 18 percent of the Bank, starting in the first place with only 3 percent.

"— The operation shuffles the cards anew and contributes to the collapse or freezing of the agreement at a critical stage for both Yitzhaq Rabin (the Israeli Prime Minister) and 'Arafat. The perpetrator of the operation says that no agreement exists between Islamic Jihad and Hamas on the one hand and the (Palestinian) Authority on the other and that the work will continue strongly and has been suspended for technical reasons only. This is what Rabin has said in clear words."

Neither the Hamas representative in Damascus, Abu Muhammad Mustafa, nor the leader of Islamic Jihad, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, would agree to comment on the operation. Meanwhile, the official Syrian media have highlighted the operation and said that "a suicide operation shakes Tel Aviv (while) the Authority of 'Arafat condemns it and plans to pursue the opposition."

Algeria

Security Services Claim 19 'Terrorists' Killed

LD2607212395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued today by the security services states that 19 terrorists were eliminated by the security forces in Relizane, Mostaganem, Blida, Chlef, Boumerdas, and Setif. The security forces have also recovered a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Mauritania Signs Cooperation Accord

LD2607141695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before the Mauritanian president's departure from Algiers this morning, executive minutes were signed at Djenane El-Mithak defining the scope and type of cooperation between the two countries in order to build a common destiny for the greater Arab Maghreb.

On the contents of the minutes, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri says:

[Begin Dembri recording] The executive minutes first express the assessment we have made under the guidance of President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya and President Liamine Zeroual. Our assessment was objective; we took into consideration everything we have done so far and identified the issues that are moving in the right direction and those that require attention.

We have five mixed companies of great importance; three are in the field of oil, one in the field of fisheries, and the other in the field of transport. This promotes economic integration between the two countries. Problems emerged in the field of management, but not in the objectives expected of these companies. We have taken the required measures under the presidents' instructions, and these measures will come into force in the next few days. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Opposition Newsletter on the 'Islamic Struggle'

MS2707102395 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 25 Jul 95 p

[Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 30 "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS supporters in europe" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial — Truth will always prevails over Falsehood!

Praise be to Allah who Says:" And say:"Truth has (now) arrived, and Falsehood perished: for Falsehood is (by its nature) bound to perish." (Koran, Surat Bani Israil,17:81).

Looking at the history of Humanity, one can see that no matter how long it may take, Truth will always prevails upon Falsehood, Right over Wrong, Justice over Injustice, Freedom over Oppression, Knowledge over Ignorance...and that the conflict between the antagonists has always existed and always will, until the final battle.

At the beginning of each battle between Truth and Falsehood, the soldiers of the first are few and ill-equipped and those of the second are many and well provided, and in between the contemplative masses who most of the time have a sympathetic heart toward the side of the Just but are made or forced to work for the Corrupt. As the end of the battle approaches and the Truth becomes strong and victorious, the number of its supporters increases as does the number of opportunists and "authority glorifiers" within its ranks. Allah (S.W.T) Says: "*When comes the Help of Allah and Victory* and you see the people enter Allah's Religion in crows," (Koran, Surat An-Nasr,110:1,2).

In Algeria and by Allah Will, another decisive battle is taking place between Truth and Falsehood. This battle started thirty years after the end of the previous one in which Truth has crushed the falsehood of colonialism.

Falsehood has come up with all sort of trickeries during the French colonialism but Truth at the end prevailed. It is important to note the similarity in the methods used in both battles as it is useful to analyse the first one in order to comprehend the second one and make projection on how its end will be.

During the Algerian war, Falsehood used to call the Mujahedeen all sort of dishonourable names from terrorists to bandits. Falsehood used isolated acts of barbary committed by some of those within the Truth's ranks (Melouza, nose mutilation for cigarette smokers, and other abuses...) to say that it was not only the general policy of the Truth but its sole finality!

Falsehood kidnapped the political leaders of the Algerian movement in a plane hijacking operation and kept them as political hostages to be used when nedeed.The capacity of the Truth to regenerate not only fighters but also leaders was unlimited and Truth prevailed at the end.

Falsehood had the monopoly on the media inside Algeria and mass opinion manipulation was elaborated in the office of the "psychological action" (deuxieme Bureau) [intelligence service] but the smoke-screen of "propaganda intoxication" could not prevent the Truth rays to pass through!

From the same office (deuxieme bureau) and under people like Colonel Jobert and Captain Leger, actions to break the unity of the Mujahedeen were launched under the name of "operation bleuitte" and others. It did have a limited effect on some Mujahedeen leaders but Truth again prevailed.

How many "combing operations", has Falsehood performed? How many death sentences has it executed? How many concentration camps has it filled? How many anonymous mass graves has it erected? Truth was "put on the street and the people (not the angels) took it and hold it high", It did never fell!

Falsehood wanted to break the leadership unity to a point that it succeeded to make a high ranked Mujaheed go seeking peace with de Gaulle in Paris without the consent nor knowledge of the rest of the leadership. But Truth prevailed.

Falsehood in its last resort wanted to negotiate a half measure settlement where it will leave to the Algeria people everything else but the Oil (Sahara) but it was at the end forced to swallow the full solution.

For the case of today's battle, one can affirm that the apprentice does not and can not exceed the master's performances except in one field i,e in stubbornness! The Junta lousy political manipulations and the work of Jober's and Leger's bad students in the new "deuxieme bureau" called the notorious "la SM" (security militaire), can not in any way be more conclusive than the ex-Nato member (France). The Truth will always prevails!

"And say: "Truth has (now) arrived, and Falsehood perished: for Falsehood is (by its nature) bound to perish." (Koran, Surat Bani Israil,17:81).

The Junta tightens its monopoly on political presentation!

As an art director eager to show the people what he/she wants them to see and hear, the Junta in Algeria, far from having anything to do with art, is nevertheless tightening its grips on the media over which it already had the monopoly. For the delicate subject of what the Junta has called the "negotiations with the FIS leadership", the Junta was not satisfied with the role it had picked for itself that of being the spokesman of the FIS jailed leaders, it wanted to have the monopoly in this role as well.

Few weeks ago and as the show of "negotiations" was on, the Junta media had the exclusivity of "informing" the opinion about the "progress of the negotiations" on an almost everyday basis. The Junta media "informed" the public that the FIS leaders had disagreement amongst themselves, that they break their engagement ...etc.

About two weeks ago and when another voice was heard from someone who apparently was in contact with the FIS jailed leaders, the Junta immediately arrested the concerned, Shaykh Hocine Slimani from his home and in the middle of the night. He was then released and was forbidden to speak on the matter again and as a sign of intimidation he was obliged to sign up at the Gendarmery post everyday.

Last week as a result of publishing their version of why the "contact" with the Junta did not go any further, Shaykh Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djeddi were also forbidden to have any contact with the press. They were summoned up to the Junta minister of "Injustice" who verbally announced to them the decision to restrict their civil liberties further. It is to note that the two FIS leaders are legally free and that the arbitrary sentence given to them by the Junta has already expired. The two FIS leaders has open a lawsuit against the Junta minister not in order to have Justice, but to emphasise the contradictions of the Junta and equally important to put each Junta valet near his responsibility and remind him of his accountability.

On the other hand and on the same chapter, it has been reported that the opposition members of the "national contract" are on the way of putting few lawsuits against few Junta valets who are being used to obstruct the activities of the group under cover of administrative bureaucracy.

The FIS leaders who have been working in the group have decided to "continue working no matter the consequences!" and despite the intimidations transmitted to them through the Junta valet minister of Injustice. The Junta minister of Injustice was charged to transmit to them.

The FIS leader Abdelkader Hachani on a hunger strick! [as received]

Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani the president of the provisional executive bureau of the FIS who has lead the FIS to the election victory of December 91, has undergone an unlimited hunger strick since Saturday 22/07/95 to protest against the decision taken to prevent his family and lawyer to visit him. The medical condition of Shaykh Hachani has deteriorated since he has been wounded during the Serkadji prison carnage last February and in which more than two hundred Islamists were massacred. Hachani was arrested following the elections and has not been judged yet after being in detention for three and a half years.

According to his lawyers, Hachani was put in an isolated cell in Sekadji following what the Junta has called "failure of negotiations with the FIS leaders". The same source said that Hachani was isolated to prevent him from divulging details of the so-called negotiations. The source added that :"the collective of lawyer are preparing a lawsuit against the prison administration".

Where is the money going to?

Last Friday (21/07/95) the Paris club of official creditors have agreed to reschedule the Algerian public debt on the amount of 7.5 billion US dollars, after three days of negotiations between the Junta officials and creditors representing sixteen countries. Two days latter and from Dakar (Senegal), the French president Jacques Chirac declared that :"...we will continue our aid to Algeria and this is not an aid to the State (1) (Algerian) or a support to any party (involved in the conflict), but it is for the development of the Algerian people so that an economical anarchy will not add to the actual political one and I do not want to add anything further on the subject."

(1) in terms of rhetoric, this seems new since the Junta has always declared itself as synonymous of "the Algerian State".

On the other hand the Junta minister of Industrial restructuring and participation and ex-professor of economy in Algiers University, Mourad Benachnou find a great sum of money missing when he tried to do his addition of where did the cash issued from previous rescheduling go?! He declared: "The money issued from the rescheduling have been used for personal purposes by civil servants officials." What a courage if he keeps on like this Mr Benachnou may find it less difficult in the future to use the "Junta officials" or even "Junta servants officials" instead of "civil servant officials" and win for himself an amnesty on the day of accountability.

The Junta prime minister Mokdad Sifi has apparently find his addition exact to the tenth of a centime and nothing was missing! He did however had the courage to alert the people saying that "the rescheduling of the foreign debt can be a bombe with a delayed effect if the national production continues to fall." The total foreign debt was estimated in billions of US dollars to be 25.7 in 1993, has reached the amount of 29,4 up to 31 December 1994. It is estimated to be 32 in 1995 and 36 in 1996. These figures represent a conservative estimate according to some economical analysts.

The Junta designated parliament has approved the selling off of the state owned industrial companies under the cover of "going to a market economy system". It is in fact the beginning of the larger money "laundrying" operation ever. Following is an example of the Junta cleaver way of re-routing foreign aids from their original destination.

Few months ago, the then French foreign Minister declared that the economical assistance France was giving to the Junta is well controlled in terms of end use and it was not possible for this aid to be re-routed somewhere else. That is counting without the Military regime three decades of experience. Among other ways, the Junta has come up with a trick which should make every body happy including the foreign fund provider. The trick is devilishly simple. It consists of selling the project as it reaches completion. This way the fund provider can see that the project has been concretised and the Junta will have the cash and everybody is happy except the Algerian people who are asked to pay the loan back! This sell is done under the chapter of "privatisation" of course. In this respect, the Junta Tourism Ministry has put for sale, five grand hotel which are at various stage of development. They are: The 331-room five-star hotel at Dar El Beida (adjacent to Algiers international airport), which is in the process of completion.

— The 228-room four-star Hotel of Chateauneuf in the centre of Oran, which is being build.

— The 165-room three star Hotel of Azemmour in the centre of Bejaia, which is being built.

— The A 158-room three-star hotel in the centre of M'sila, which is in the process of being completed.

— The 150-room three-star Hotel Louss in the centre of El-Oued, which is ready to operate.

The Junta is ready to sacrifice millions of people for her economical and financial privileges. Today, foreign aid under these conditions has become an incentive for the statu-quo and an affliction for the Algerian people and one way of relieving them from oppression is by cutting all forms of international support to the Junta.

The FIS official comments on its contacts with the Junta!

Bismillahi Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim, The Islamic Salvation Front, The executive Committee Overseas.

Comments from the FIS regarding its contact with the authorities and the causes of its failure!

1 — The principles for contacts: On the 9th of April (95), shaykh Abassi Madani has sent a letter to the presidency which became an opening gate for contact and a basis for discussion which took place between himself and General Betchine (Advisor minister in the

presidency) at the detention place of shaykh Abbassi in Algiers. And when these contacts have suscitate the authorities approbation and have gone some steps ahead, shaykh Abbassi Madani asked for other leaders to be present and who are: Abdelkader Hachani, Ali Belhadj, Ali Djeddi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Kamel Guemazi and Omar Abdelkader. The purpose of the gathering was to examine what has been discussed and to continue to work on what the FIS has to propose in term of solution to end the crisis. The result of the discussion between the seven FIS leaders was formulated in the document composed on the 18th of June 1995 which was presented by Abbassi Madani and Abdelkader Hachani who have suggested that the document can be discussed with either the leaders that have been released or with those still jailed on the condition of being free or at least in a place outside the jail so they can participate with the released leaders in the discussion. In any case, the negotiations can not take place inside a prison because detention is a coercion and there is no responsibility (in Islam) for the one under coercion.

The fact that it was Shaykh Abbassi Madani who submitted, in person, the document which was agreed upon by the seven leaders and the fact also that the Shaykh (Abbassi Madani) has stated the open option of discussing the document with him or without him (personally) should dismiss all allegations which state that the document approved by the seven came to refute a previous final agreement approved by the Shaykh (Abbassi Madani). And the fact that the alleged approved document did not contain any signature or dispositions, proves that this document was only a memo of the previous discussions.

There were in total three memos; One which contained 14 points of discussion, the second 16 points and both of them with the Shaykh's hand writing. As for the third memos, it had 18 points and this last one which the authorities pretend that the Shaykh have agreed upon.

2 — Circumstances of the contacts: It is important to note that what has happen between the FIS and the authorities so far is only a mere contact where there were exchange of documents between the two parties. It has not reached the level of dialogue never mind the level of negotiations. When the authorities were given the document elaborated by the seven FIS leaders and after its examination, their representative expressed remarques on the content of the document despite the fact that the authorities were asked to discuss the document point by point before giving it but they insisted on seeing the whole document prior to discussion. At the end, the authorities agreed on discussing the document along with another one elaborated by them.

In this context, we were asked to designate our negotiating delegation given that the authorities' delegation was composed of General Betchine the advisor minister to the presidency who have assisted in the early contacts with Shaykh Abbassi Madani and another unspecified official. We would like to clarify that we were given the freedom of choosing our delegation and in this context the released FIS leaders were invited to the meeting of designating the delegation. At this stage the seven saw the necessity to move the discussion outside the jail so that we do not succumb to coercion, in other word a meeting between the released brothers and the authorities. In the case of the authorities insisting in meeting with the jailed leaders or with some of them, then it is necessary to release them.

But unfortunately the two propositions were refused completely which has required from us to discuss the problem of the delegation once more. Finally we have reached a stage where in order to avoid a situation of blockage which the authorities wanted to make the FIS responsible of, we suggested the option of meeting with the jailed leadership or a part of it in an appropriate place outside the jail. This proposition was put to the authorities representative who disregarded it automatically saying that the present place is better for safety raisons and the president may have the same opinion but nevertheless he will present the proposition to him and naturally another refusal came.

3 — The failure of the contacts related to the principles: In conclusion, the authorities which have given us at the beginning the freedom in choosing our delegation and the place of meeting, has shifted to impose on us the composition of the delegation and the place of meeting. The argument of the authorities representative concerning the place of meeting is that it was minor point but for the FIS it is a matter of principle. And if this point was minor as the authorities pretend it is, then they could easily have provided us with another place for the sake of the nation well being and to stop the blood shed. And it is the authorities which pretend to be the protector of the Land and the people. And at this point precisely and in order to persuade the authorities, the Shaykh (Abbassi Madani) said to their representative : "suppose I got seek and my treatment requires me to be taken outside this place, will you do that for me? the representative answered: "why not? Oh Shaykh!", then the Shaykh said:" for my personal and medical benefit you will do it but for the benefit of the Nation you are incapable of doing it?! It is hoped that you revise your positions! And after that there were no contact. From

these events one can withdraw who was responsible for the failure of those contacts.

It is to note that the authorities that accuses the Islamic Salvation Front of absolutism, were surprised by the team work of the FIS leaders during those contacts despite what the FIS has endured in terms of oppression, killings amongst other abuses. The last contact took place on the 11/07/95 on the note of an announced meeting for the next day. The meeting did not take place and we were surprised by the authorities announcement of the contacts failure on the 13/07/95.

4 — The Failure of contacts at a level of dispositions: It is important to note that a verbal agreement was reached concerning the liberation of all prisoners and the deportees (in the Sahara concentration camps) but just the elaboration of practical aspect that was not completed. We have elaborated the different stages of these dispositions: — Stage prior to the final agreement that is following the agreement on the principles, the three FIS jailed leaders should be freed as well as those deportees in the Sahara desert and all prisoners for whom no final decision has been taken yet.

— Stage two concerns those with "medium" sentences.
— Stage three concerns those with death and life sentences. Those cases are dealt with by ways of general amnesty which will be taken by the legitimate authorities with the necessity of ceasing the executions of death penalties before the legitimacy. And this contrary to what the presidency spokesman has declared that the liberation of some prisoners will take place in the context of "clemency measures" and this shows clearly the lack of consistency of the authorities in their positions.

As for the Islamic Salvation front, the authorities see that it should keep its program and charter code and its first homologation?! but with a change in the same only?! Because the authorities see that it is legal impossibility for the FIS to stay with its first appellation. The FIS leaders however, have emphasis the necessity of keeping the FIS name and content because its interdiction was a political decision under a legal cover that is why a political decision is nullified with a political decision particularly when these authorities are saying that they are transitory and came with a mission of finding a solution to the crisis and that they are not responsible for the tragic decisions taken which have lead the country to this multi-aspect crisis. Where is then the will of these authorities in finding a solution. The situation is that of will and conviction!

Europe 23/07/95, The Executive Committee overseas.

Egypt

Musa Views Islamic Group's Action on Bosnia

NC2607160295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that King Husayn of Jordan will visit Egypt next week for talks with President Husni Mubarak on current Arab issues.

He also mentioned the Mediterranean forum countries' foreign ministers meetings, which opens in Tunis on 28 July. He said the forum aims to coordinate positions and hold discussions in preparation for the Barcelona conference in November. He added that after the Tunis meeting, a statement will be issued that will include the proposed agenda for the Barcelona conference and note the possible participation of observers from non-Mediterranean countries.

Musa stated: The Islamic Contact Group's decision to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia has not yet been acted upon, it is waiting for the resolutions adopted in London to be carried out. Further, if they are not carried out, which is likely, the credibility of the entire international effort will be undermined. Everyone must realize this and discuss what must be done.

Regarding the need for Security Council approval of the Islamic Contact Group's decision to lift the Bosnian arms embargo, he said: This is an attempt to weaken the decision. We will not participate in further weakening the decision.

On the possibility of the Islamic Contact Group's defense ministers and chiefs of staff holding a meeting, Musa said this had been considered and a meeting could be held, depending on the circumstances. He said Egyptian troops are working with UN forces and that Egypt is committed to the Security Council's peacekeeping resolution. He added that the Serbs' onslaught on the Bosnian people is unacceptable.

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Pays 'Courtesy Visit' to Musa

NC2707101395 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has officially asked the Arab League to back its demand to lift the international embargo imposed on it since August 1990. It has also requested that this matter be included on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers meeting slated for September.

This was in the memorandum Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf submitted to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at a meeting with him yesterday.

The Iraqi minister stated that he had come to Cairo especially for that purpose.

Talking about Iraqi-Egyptian reconciliation, the Iraqi minister said that he met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the night before last. Al-Sahhaf, who declined to comment on the outcome of the meeting, said that it was a courtesy visit.

Nine MB Members Arrested for Plotting Overthrow

NC2607173095 Paris AFP in English
1336 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, July 26 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities have arrested nine Moslem Brotherhood [MB] members on charges of plotting to overthrow the government, police said Wednesday [26 July].

They said the arrests, made on Monday at Kafr al-Shaykh in the Nile Delta, were not connected to the detention of 15 other members of the Brotherhood last week on charges of links to armed militants and Islamists in Sudan.

The group's spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi has dismissed the charges as nonsense. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Cited on Economic Reform Program

NC2607135495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1235 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has said that Egypt is continuing the implementation of the economic reform program, upgrading the standards of services, and bolstering the Egyptian economy, a measure to which various international financial circles have testified.

He asserted that Egypt is regularly repaying foreign and domestic debt installments and interest, which confirms the soundness of the national economy.

After a meeting of the Economic Ministerial Group, he said the general budget annually includes about 22 billion pounds to pay these installments and interest on schedule.

Dr. Sidqi noted that numerous financial and world organizations, led by the IMF and the World Bank, have lauded Egypt's fiscal and economic performance in implementing the economic reform measures to boost national economy.

The Economic Ministerial Group, which met under the chairmanship of Dr. Sidqi, is making a comprehensive review of the economic and fiscal performance at present as part of the economic reform program.

Morocco

Iraq's al-Sahhaf on Commitment to Resolutions

LD2607134095 Rabat MAP in English
1232 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, July 26 (MAP) — King Hassan II received Tuesday [25 July] afternoon at the royal palace of Skhirat (35 km to the south of Rabat) Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

The Iraqi official told the press later on upon leaving Rabat that his 'mission in Morocco has been crowned with success'. He said he conveyed the sovereign a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn related to the latest developments of relations between the UN Security Council and Iraq.

He said he informed King Hassan II about 'Iraq's commitment to scrupulously implement the UN resolutions' and added time has come for the Security Council to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf had said before flying to Rabat Sunday that Iraq was getting in touch with its brethren to gain their support and solidarity to lift the embargo imposed on it.

The Iraqi official had visited Morocco the previous week and handed the sovereign a message from the Iraqi president.

Western Sahara

Referendum Voter Registration Resumed

LD2607221395 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Voter registration for the referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara has resumed in six localities, according to an announcement by a UN official today. The procedure was interrupted last month when the Polisario Front withdrew its representatives, following violations of the peace process, for which Morocco was blamed.

Kuwait

Committee Approves Aid for Bosnian Muslims

LD2607212295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1942 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 26 Jul (KUNA) — The National Assembly Finance and Economic Affairs Committee today passed the proposed amendments to the fifth chapter of the state's draft budget bill which was estimated at 2.25 billion Kuwaiti dinars.

Finance committee member 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Samad, told journalists at the end of the committee meeting that the amendments stipulated that 10 million Kuwaiti dinars would be taken from the foreign aid budget and given to the Bosnian Muslims to help them face up to the difficult circumstances brought about by repeated Serbian aggression. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Minister Denies U.S. Claims on Ties With Iran

LD2607202095 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani announced: The recent events in Qatar will have no effect on the country's relations with its neighbors.

He referred to the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran saying: We consider Iran as a friend and a neighboring country; therefore, the expansion of relations with Iran has a special place in Qatar's foreign policy.

The Qatari foreign minister rejected the U.S. officials' claims that Qatar has given guarantees to limit its relations with Iran, and said: We reject such claims. As we have also formally announced previously, we have not given any guarantees to any foreign country because of the recent developments in Qatar.

He said: I am optimistic about the expansion of relations with Iran and hope that these relations will further expand as they have in the past.

The Qatari foreign minister left Tehran for his own country this afternoon.

Saudi Arabia

King Urges Security Council To Act on Bosnia

LD2607145095 Riyadh SPA in English 1403 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, July 26, SPA — Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has sent messages to the president of UN Security Council member states as part of the intensive efforts being exerted by Saudi Arabia to extend material and moral support to the Moslem Bosnian people.

In the messages sent as an instant response to implement the resolutions of the Islamic contact group's meeting held in Geneva on July 21, the monarch tackled the extremely dangerous developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the continuation of Serbian aggressions in the U.N.-declared safe areas, the mass-killing, raping and inhuman acts committed by the Serbian forces against civilians.

King Fahd urged the leaders of Security Council member countries to shoulder the Security Council's responsibility for maintaining the international security and peace. He also urged them to take the necessary actions to compel the Serbian forces to stop their aggressive plots immediately and also to provide for the appropriate means of implementing the international legitimate resolutions associated with the Serbian aggressions in Bosnia, notably those pertaining to the UN-declared safe areas.

In his messages, King Fahd, furthermore, urged the leaders of the Security Council member countries to implement the international peace plan, consider the crimes committed by Serbian forces in Bosnia as crimes against humanity, pursue those responsible for these crimes and bring them before the international war crimes court.

Paper Attacks UN Neutrality 'Myth' Over Bosnia

MM2607160195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 9

[Editorial: "The Myths of Neutrality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations pretends to be drawing a neutral line in the Bosnian conflict. Is this true? Does it have the right to be neutral?

One of the numerous myths circulating the world regarding the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina is that the United Nations in particular and the international community in general have been pursuing a policy of neutrality there.

We are being told that nothing should be done that would give the impression that the United States was prejudiced in favor of one of the parties to the Bosnian conflict. The recent concentration of French and British troops in Sarajevo has been described "as being aimed at the protection of the UN forces only," which means that if massacres were committed against civilians in the Bosnian capital, the big guns that arrived there would remain as silent as the grave.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has been using all the power he musters to prevent the launching of the "substantial and intensive" air strikes which the London conference held last Friday pledged to launch against the Serbs.

The fact of the matter is that the United Nations is not neutral in this conflict, as it plays an active role in several directions. Because supplying food and fuel to both sides in the conflict will only help to prolong the conflict and encourage it. It is helping the Serbs by imposing an arms embargo on the Muslims. In Srebrenica and Zepa, the United Nations has encouraged the Muslims to surrender their weapons and withdraw most of their defense forces, in contravention of the pledge the United Nations has undertaken to defend the "safe areas."

Well, we have seen what has happened in Srebrenica and what is taking place at present in Zepa. The United Nations has made it easy for the Serbs to strike at the defenseless pockets. So certainly we cannot call that "neutrality."

The myth of UN neutrality has received yet another blow. The UN special envoy for human rights in former Yugoslavia has held a press conference in Tuzla at which he declared to the world in clear words that the Serbs have been carrying out "barbaric mass annihilation against the Muslims."

For the United Nations to consider the Serbs and the Muslims to be on an equal footing in this conflict means that the United Nations is in reality siding with the aggressor.

One simple question comes to mind here: Why should the United Nations be neutral in any case whatsoever? The United Nations was not created to be neutral in war situations. It was created to take the side of the victim of aggression against the aggressor. If the United Nations has abandoned this basic principle, then one cannot but wonder about the use of the existence of the United Nations as an international organization.

The laws of many countries consider refusing to help anyone facing a criminal act a crime punishable by imprisonment. You cannot see a gang of people attacking a person and look away with no concern and continue along your way. You cannot see someone bleeding on the side of the road and accelerate your car to forget what you have seen as though it never existed.

Should not this same principle be applied in the international political arena? Should not neutrality when a nation is being annihilated before the very eyes of the world be considered a crime?

Whatever the outcome of the current strife in Bosnia, there is a dire need for a revision of the future of the United Nations and its precise role in the post-cold war era.

'Frustrations' Over Bosnia Deplored

MM2707082095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Military Seriousness Awaits Political Vision. NATO Yesterday Discussed Reaction Plans Against Bosnian Serbs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We still do not know how serious NATO is with regard to the implementation of its repeated threats against the Serbs. But what we do know is that a number of Bosnian fronts are still aflame and that more innocent people have been falling victim to a war that was one of the most horrible wars witnessed by the world.

What we also know is that NATO should be serious this time, in deeds and not in words, though the majority of people believe that anything that might take place tomorrow in Bosnia, whether through peace or through war, shall reward the aggressor and destroy all remaining vestiges of fairness, let alone the prestige of international legitimacy.

British Minister of State Nicholas Soames said last week before millions of TV viewers: "There are no victims and no criminals in Bosnia...but there are guilty people on both sides." He said this out loud before his astounded viewers, some of whom were relatives of soldiers deployed in Bosnia. Such an attitude should be more than sufficient to reassure the Bosnian Serbs, and those who support them in Belgrade and Moscow, that any measure to be taken against them will fall short of preventing the implementation of the Serbian plan and that any international claim of change in the reaction to the Serbs' actions was no more than an assertion.

What we are witnessing today is new security arrangements that were adopted, firstly, in the light of a military change in the battlefields, namely, the invasion of Srebrenica, the abandonment of Zepa, and the continued attack on Bihac, and secondly, in the wake of a flagrant violation of international resolutions which deemed these pockets and other areas "safe areas" which it is prohibited to attack.

The liberation of Srebrenica is no longer on the cards. It has been affirmed for some time that there is an illicit acceptance of the surrender of Zepa and perhaps of Bihac also, as evident from the fact that all the threats and blustering have been confined to the protection of the Gorazde pocket. What about Bihac, for example, where 200,000 people are facing the "civilization" of the butchers of the Serbian militia?

Will the air raids, if agreed upon, prevent the fall of what, it was previously agreed, would be saved of "the safe areas"? Will the United Nations, which has suffered an abject defeat in most of the tasks entrusted to it in Bosnia, manage to find a justification for its existence should another humanitarian tragedy take place? What Bosnia will there be after the international community disciplines the Serbs with air raids that we had experienced before?

These questions stem from horrible frustrations that are justified with every passing moment throughout Bosnian territory. Any steps decided upon today will be useless as long as some continue to think that there is no humanitarian catastrophe in Bosnia and that all that is taking place there is a mere "conflict," for which the butcher and the goat are equally responsible.

CDLR Bulletin on Domestic, Other Issues

MS2607132995 London CDLR Monitor in English 21 Jul 95 p

[CDLR Bulletin No. 57 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet 26 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

News

The Release of Shaykh Humud al-'Uqla...

Two days ago, the scholar Shaykh Homood al-'Uqla was released, after approximately two months of detention. As soon as the supporters and sympathisers of the Shaykh learned the news of his release, all roads leading to his residence were blocked. This gathering turned into a huge celebration at the Shaykh's residence. People are continually arriving in large numbers to congratulate the Shaykh. Those who have visited the Shaykh confirmed that he is in great spirit and that his morale is high. It is thought that the international campaign of protest against the arrest of the Shaykh was successful, after the guidance of Allah. The Shaykh stated that his treatment during detention suddenly improved, after the assault attack on his residence by seventy security men and the humiliation of members of his household, along with searches etc. We appeal to all the Brothers who have so far not travelled to see the Shaykh to visit and congratulate him.

The Arrest of Shaykh 'Ali al-Ghamidi...

The arrest and assault campaign is still continuing and the humiliation of senior scholars is repeated yet again. This time, Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-S'aid al-Ghamidi, Professor of Islamic Studies at Al Imam University, (Medina Branch) and previously in Riyadh, was to take his turn. The Shaykh is one of the senior Professors under whose teaching many scholars have graduated, such as Safar al-Hawali and Nasir al-'umar.

The new crime perpetrated by the authorities took place in two stages. Firstly the Shaykh was sacked from his position and a few days later he was arrested after a humiliating assault and search of his house. He was then taken away like a criminal. It has become clear that the arrests are now not only aimed at righteous people of high reputation. Arrests have become so numerous that they are now normal routine and all the Muslim youth and preachers are prepared for such an event and are no longer worried at such a possibility. This is in contrary to the aim of the regime which is to strike fear into the minds of the people.

Sultan and The Economists...

Prince Sultan is presently attempting to ensure his future position by using a new method. This is mainly by strengthening his relations with businessmen and economists, as he has repeatedly visited the Chambers of Commerce and has been particularly interested in inviting businessmen to discuss economic affairs. Sultan is trying to distinguish himself from his brothers by taking this new direction in the belief that businessmen and traders will have a strong voice in choosing the future ruler. This may help him in the future struggle for power with his brothers.

A Hundred Billion Dollars Worth of Land...

The revenues of the royal family have been decreased. This has been brought about by the decline in the number of contracts given by the authorities, which in turn means the decline in commissions and bribes. It was therefore decided that the deficit this year as suffered by various princes should be filled and the King has agreed to the princes' desire of expansion in land ownership, whether the land belongs to the state or is privately owned land which has been confiscated.

The suggestion was based on he fact that more citizens are becoming interested in purchasing land and this means that their cash will be exhausted and will fall straight into the open hands of the children of the royal family. The plan for this year amounts to 100 billion Riyals worth of land.

The "Addict" Prince on a Tour of Europe...

After an unsuccessful attempt by Prince (.....) to convince his brothers to send him as an official delegate to

Britain and Europe, he decided to go himself on a tour of Europe.

We do not know whether Britain will welcome the "polite" prince, particularly after his open threats of sanctions if Britain did not remove al-Mas'ari and al-Faqih from Britain. However, we take this opportunity to advise the prince to be extremely careful when he enters the European airports, as they possess very sensitive equipment for the discovery of "drugs," in case his visit turns into a scandal.

Security For Some!!!

It has been noticed by a huge number of citizens that there is a vast difference in the way ordinary citizens reports are dealt with compared to those from members of the royal family or high officials and their relatives. For example, last week in Riyadh, the police received numerous reports and the only response from the police was, "May God help you," except for two, which received special attention. In one, the car and the car thief were apprehended within 48 hours. This efficiency was due to the fact that one of them was a report by a high ranking officer in the Interior Ministry, and the other was for a relative of a high official in the same ministry. Therefore, we advice the Saudi citizens to investigate their family trees, and those of their in-laws, as they may be lucky enough to find a connection to the royal family or to officials in the Interior Ministry!

However, the security decline is increasing, and theft from motorway service stations is the new trend. Burglaries and theft in general are on the increase. We once again confirm that the reason for the decline is due to the policies of the Royal family in trying to take the people away from their faith and the allowing and disregard of deviant behaviour.

The Judicial Crime...

We have learned from knowledgeable sources in the judiciary that the authorities attempted to force those who were sentenced, as published previously, to sign their acceptance of the sentence and to forego their rights of appeal.

The authorities used psychological and physical "methods" in attempts to get the signatures. This forced some of the detainees to sign.

We present this news to Shaykh Salih al-Luhaydan and we congratulate him for the "independence" of the institution under his band.

We also say to the Brothers who were forced to sign, that they have lost nothing. The Government can use anyone in the judicial system to confirm the sentences that have been issued, and may even increase their cruelty, if necessary.

An Increase In Water Tariffs after those of Electricity and Telephone...

A few days ago, the deputy minister for water and agriculture, Dr Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, had a meeting with the representative of An-Nammal Company responsible for the supply of water to the Al-Riyadh region. The subject of the meeting was the discussion of the ministry's inability to pay its dues to the company, which amount to 33 million Riyals.

After the persistence of the company's representative for payment, al-Kuwaytir answered him frankly in that there was no way in which the ministry would be able to pay and there had to be another way of settling the debt.

The company representative suggested that the citizens should pay the dues in place of the state. Basically he was questioning why tariffs for electricity and telephones should increase but not those of water? Therefore the conclusion of the meeting was to propose a suggestion to raise the tariffs on water supply, connection and metres, from 350 Riyal to the following table; 1 to 150 cubic meters — 1800 Riyal. 150 to 500 cubic meters — 2500 Riyal. 500 to 1000 cubic meters — 3500 Riyal. over 1000 cubic meters, every extra cubic meter will cost 100 Riyals.

Some of those present at the meeting rejected the figures out of sympathy for the poor citizens, but al-Khuwaytir replied that "as the citizens accepted the 23,000 Riyals for the electricity metre connection, then they would accept less for water metres, and this will not harm the citizens."

The meeting was concluded on the above agreement, and the plan is expected to be put into operation soon after a verbal confirmation from one of the Sudairi group, as the case will not require a debate in the Minister Council or the blessings of the Consultancy Council, as was the case with the undeclared electricity and telephone increases. If the Government gave a slice of its dues to An-Nammal Company and froze the proposed increase to prove us wrong, we are grateful and, therefore, appeal to the officials of the company and the citizens, to pray for us.

The Prohibition of Enquiries...

Some of the families of the detainees wrote letters of resentment and condemnation to the King to protest against the continued arrest of their sons for no apparent reason and without charge.

Amongst those families are the family of Salman al-Awdah, al al-Yahya and Al al-Rushudi.

Al-Sa'ud replied to the letters in their "special" way by calling the dignitaries of those families to the Governors office, where they were given a strictwarning not to write such letters again, nor to repeat their enquiries regarding the detainees. (Another 'wise' ruling instigated by the care they always show for their subjects)

Al-Jamiyyah and Shaykh Salman...

Special sources in prison mentioned that a number of the prominent figures of al-Jamiyyah group have visited Shaykh Salman in prison regularly in an attempt to convince him that he was wrong in his attitude to the Government and that the legitimate duty was to seek an apology from the government and their pardon.

The Shaykh has ignored them and he, along with Shaykh Safar, is still insisting on their stand, which consists of the following three choices:-

— 1) to be unconditionally released from prison.

— 2) to be able to leave the Kingdom freely.

— 3) to remain in prison.

The information we receive still confirms the high morale of the detainees, and their preparation for steadfastness.

A Doctor Punished For the Government Mistakes...

An emotional citizen shot a Doctor dead in King Fahd's hospital as revenge for his deceased father. This citizen brought his father to the casualty department, where the father was examined by the soon to be deceased doctor, who decided that only painkillers were needed.

Shortly after, the father died from his illness.

This incident caused an outcry in the Ehsa region. Everyone felt that the citizen was wrong in blaming the doctor. It would have been more appropriate, they argued, to blame the authorities who had filled the ministry with unqualified doctors and staff reducing spending on health services, at the same time, for the sake of keeping their income which is gained by embezzlement.

However, the number of beds in that hospital is approximately 350, serving more than 1.5 million people, which is approximately an average of one bed per five thousand people.

The employees of the ministry state that the health services are sliding into further decline and that there is no hope of any improvements due to the economic and administrative mismanagement, particularly as the health services are last on the priority lists.

The 16th Communique by A.R.C

The Advice and Reform Organisation issued its 16th communique this week regarding the proposal of privatising the Saudi Airlines. The organisation stated in the communique that this step is only a new method of taking money out of the hands of the people after the bankruptcy of the Government treasury and is also to free itself from the huge debts of the company, particularly the 7.5 billion Riyal commitment to the Boeing Company.

The Communique indicated the commissions involved in the Boeing deal as well as the reasons behind the airlines bankruptcy were mainly because of its inability to collect its dues from members of the royal family totalling billions of Riyals.

The communique warned businessmen from risking their money in such a lost venture. It also asked the question of who was going to pay for the Government's and royal families' trips after privatisation? In addition to that, it stated, participation in buying the airline is aiding the rulers in their quest to embezzle more of the nations wealth.

We, in the Committee, support the call of the A.R.C, and we will send the views of specialised economists to the businessmen, as they will show that buying shares in such a venture can only be seen as burning money.

Fire in Mecca...

In Holy Mecca, a huge fire raged in Al-Layl market from 6pm on Thursday to 12 noon the following day. The fire destroyed 70 shops and numerous surrounding houses. Witnesses said that six ambulances transported casualties and the fire brigade actually stood back and watched the fire until the second day. (A Saudi, rapid-reaction force?)

The reasons for the delay in the arrival of the fire brigade are still unknown, although the same problem also occur in Riyadh and Medina.

Graduation Ceremony Boycotted...

In solidarity with the detained scholars, most of the graduates of the Qasim branch of Al-Imam University boycotted the graduation ceremony, and only a small number of students attended.

Important Note...

The Brothers who receive the bulletin outside the Kingdom can now receive it by (Polling), and that is by ringing number 00441132938383 and pressing the green button after hearing the tone.

Those contacting from inside the UK can use the number 0891-616- 519. For information, the Committee will stop its transmission outside the Kingdom soon, so the Brothers must use the Polling method mentioned.

Apology...

Due to the amount of news this week, we apologise for postponing part 9 of The Legitimacy of the Regime series until next week.

Yemen

Reports on Possible Government Reshuffle Denied

NC2607174695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 26 Jul (MENA)—A responsible source in the ruling General People's Congress Party in Yemen has denied recent reports that a new cabinet would be formed in Yemen or that the Ministry would be reshuffled.

The source told MENA's correspondent in Sanaa that the current cabinet led by 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani is tasked with implementing the economic program that it announced in April; the program is to restructure the Yemeni economy and advance development in the country.

Foreign newspapers had spoken of a possible ministerial reshuffle in Yemen and reported that 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, would resign.

Statement on Bosnia Sent to French, PRC Embassies

JN2607192495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A committee of the House of Representatives, headed by House Speakership member Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, has visited the embassies of the Republic of France and the People's Republic of China, as well as the UN Office.

The committee handed the representatives of these diplomatic bodies a statement issued by the House of Representatives on brutal aggressions against the Bosnian Muslim people by the Serb criminals, who are exercising the ugliest forms of ethnic cleansing, mass killing, violation of the rights of a peaceful nation that has done nothing other than adhering to its Islamic doctrine an its land and complying with the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Although the Bosnian people wagered on the international legitimacy for their protection within safe havens, the Unite Nations has disavowed its legal and moral pledges and commitments toward a nation, whose state is a recognized member, and allowed the Serb aggressors to attack the safe havens protected by the UN forces, which are just witnessing the massacres and counting the killed, the wounded, and the displaced citizens who are moving from their lands to other areas.

SAIRI Leader: Conditions Conducive for Change

LD2607193295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1230 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an interview with the French news agency, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, one of the main leaders of the opponents of the Iraqi regime, currently on a visit to Syria since Friday 21 July, has described the conditions in his country as conducive to a change.

In this regard, he referred to last May's uprising by the al-Dulaymi tribe, which was a supporter of Saddam Husayn, beside a mutiny staged by an army unit last month. At the same time, Ayatollah al-Hakim, the head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, SAIRI, considered aid to the armed forces as essential for toppling the Iraqi regime. He said that in this way, bloodletting would be checked and the territorial integrity of Iraq, too, preserved.

In recent months, there have been observed signs of mutiny and disintegration within the Iraqi Army and as a result Saddam Husayn, in order to check the deserting servicemen, has ordered to cut off the offending troops' ears. Also based on the comments of the opponents following the mutiny by a senior commander from the al-Dulaymi tribe, there has taken place an all-out purge of those officers who were suspected of disobedience.

Ayatollah al-Hakim, criticizing the Iraqi National Congress, described its measures as not serious and its efficiency as limited. He declared that there should be formed a leadership cadre trusted by the army. The SAIRI has presented to all opponents a plan on the formation of a new organization composed of all the groups for replacing the Iraqi National Congress.

It must be noted that the Iraqi National Congress, which was set up with the help of the Western allies at the end of the oil war in 1991, despite its contact with Western governments and receipt of political and material assistance from them, has failed to make any progress in its confrontation with Baghdad. Internal rifts within the congress over recent months, too, have further weakened it. As a result, a number of antigovernment groups and dissident figures have left the congress. Even a member of important organizations, such as SAIRI, would not be its member from the very beginning. [sentence as heard]

Observers believe that reliance of the leaders of the Iraqi National Congress on the West, especially the United States, instead of trusting the people has played a major role in weakening the group. This is because the policies of the congress are being enforced to emulating the Western policies, whereas the interests of the West and America are repugnant to those of the Iraqi nation.

The visit of Ayatollah al-Hakim to Damascus and his meetings with top Syrian officials and leaders of the oppositions have provided him an opportunity to give a new impetus to the movement of the anti-Saddam forces on a vast level.

SAIRI Says al-Dulaym Tribes Seize Food Trucks

JN2607191695 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq's [SAIRI] press office report that scores of trucks carrying wheat recently disappeared or had their cargo confiscated on the main road between al-Ramadi and the border town of al-Rutbah while on their way from Iraq to Jordan.

The sources said that armed groups from al-Dulaym tribes carried out these interception operations after the despot's authorities banned foodstuff from being sent to the sons of the al-Ramadi Governorate in accordance with the ration card following the incidents and armed confrontations between theses tribes and the regime's men.

The sources said that the rebels captured several trucks transporting grain and distributed them to the defenseless citizens in spite of the fact that the regime had increased the checkpoints on the strategic Amman-Baghdad road. These trucks are owned by the Iraqi Overland Transport Company that criminal 'Udayy, the son of the despot, recently took over. 'Udayy is currently sending to Jordan shipments of the wheat and barley he has taken by force from the farmers this year where he sells them for hard currency which is deposited in the account of the ruling family in world banks. This takes place at the expense of our starved and oppressed people.

Islamic Opposition Reports Anti-Saddam Operations

JN2607173095 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Islamic revolution mujahidin have issued a statement pledging to remain swords brandished in the face of the regime and its agents until right is acknowledged and Saddam's wrongdoings are terminated.

The following is part of the statement: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God. [Koranic verse]

Sons of our militant Islamic nation and zealous people of Iraq, this pharaoh-like regime should not be given the chance to catch its breath. Your sons and brothers the mujahidin have pledged to God, to the Prophet, and to the pure members of his household to avenge the blood of the sons of their nation with their continuous jihad operations, seeking God's blessings and saving their people from this despot and his gang which rules them with iron-fisted methods.

The hero mujahidin recently carried out the following operations:

1. The station controlling the Iraqi oil pipelines in the Abu-Skhayr area in al-Basrah Governorate was blown up, and it sustained heavy damages.

2. The 'Aflaqites' party headquarters opposite the Republican Hospital in al-Basrah was also blown up. Heavy damages were inflicted on it and one of the regime's mercenaries was killed.

3. A checkpoint was set up on the al-Basrah-al-'Amarah main road to search for the regime's henchmen and agents. The mujahdidn also set up another checkpoint in the Sa'd Hamdan square for the same purpose.

4. Smearing the despot's pictures in al-Samawah Governorate with bitumen. God grants success.

[Signed] The Islamic revolution mujahidin

KDP Issues Statement on U.S. Peace Initiative

JN2607203195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1840 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Statement by the KDP Political Bureau "on the party's stand on the U.S. initiative to achieve peace in Iraqi Kurdistan" on 26 July — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration submitted an initiative in late June to achieve peace in Iraqi Kurdistan. It sent a U.S. State Department delegation to the region to discuss with the commands of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] its serious wish to carry out an effective and active role for attaining a comprehensive peaceful solution to the intra-Kurdish conflict.

Out of its awareness of the perils and threats the continuation of the armed conflict poses to our people's achievements and interests, a conflict that the PUK command has imposed on our people, and in view of the momentous perils the continuation of the conflict will have on the security of the Kurdish people and their political future, on the cause of the entire Iraqi people, and on security and stability in the entire region, the KDP command from the premise of a historic responsibility has positively dealt with the U.S. initiative.

The KDP command welcomed the proposed initiative, voiced appreciation for the efforts of the U.S. Administration and for the role it is expected to carry out to achieve peace and amity in Iraqi Kurdistan. The KDP submitted a comprehensive visualization on how to settle the crisis, proposals to render the initiative a success, and steps to tackle its various components.

The U.S. State Department delegation asked the two parties that during the transition period and until the initiative further materializes to abide by the cease-fire and extend it to render the peace process a success. The KDP command committed itself to this. The U.S. delegation said it has obtained a similar commitment from Talabani's command that it will abide by the cease-fire.

The party command proposed holding preparatory meetings between the two parties at political bureau level and with the active participation of U.S. officials to directly negotiate all the controversial issues instead of a summit meeting between the two parties as was proposed. The KDP command left the door open to holding such a summit in case both parties reach a comprehensive agreement for settling the real causes of the crisis instead of pursuing the media clamor and the formal agreements that the PUK command feverishly seeks to conclude and to peddle.

The U.S. Administration adopted the party's proposals and officially communicated its approval to the two parties. It reiterated its wish to proceed with the peace plan. However, the PUK command went back on its commitment and seriously and flagrantly violated the cease-fire. The PUK carried out large-scale offensive operations on the night of 8-9 July to threaten the party's command headquarters in Salah al-Din and Tir'ash [name as heard] and its communications lines.

With this aggression, the PUK terminated the cease-fire, reignited the fighting, and torpedoed the positive atmosphere conducive to reconciliation that prevailed during the three months of the cease-fire.

Thanks to the confrontation and steadfastness of the party forces on the front lines, the aggressors were deprived of the opportunity to score the victory they had hoped they would score.

The PUK gambling and its foolish adventure backfired internally and externally on those who committed these acts. Those who launched the U.S. initiative became certain that the PUK had resorted to a military offensive maneuver in order to realize gains on the ground. The forgery and falsehood of the PUK leadership have been proven to them, as well as the allegation about the desire to have peace and direct negotiations.

The KDP leadership emphasizes its acceptance of the U.S. initiative and its readiness to participate in the proposed meetings on the level of political bureaus in a European country and under U.S. auspices in order to negotiate on all controversial issues, starting with ending the military occupation of Irbil, returning the authority and legitimacy to the province's establishments, dealing with the subject of revenues of the Kurdistan government, and reviving the political process in the province in order to reach a comprehensive peace agreement.

It also welcomes a role for the Iraqi National Congress and the Kurdish parties in supervising peace. At the same time, it demands that the aggressor be named and that the forces of the two parties return to their positions of 8 July so that this will deter any new violations.

The party's leadership will adhere to legitimate self-defense and will continue to safeguard the rights of supporters of the other side in the areas run by the party.

The PUK leadership, based on rejectionist concepts, presented false views in order to deceive public opinion. It claimed, in a cheap propaganda attempt, that the party has rejected the U.S. initiative in order to justify and perpetuate its aggression. It then presented ready-made results of the initiative before the initiative begins. It envisaged the results of the initiative in terms of agreements before any agreements are reached. At the same time, it continued wars and destruction in spite of its peace allegations. This skill by the PUK leadership will be tested soon and its naive maneuvers will face a difficult test in terms of credibility when facing the just and comprehensive peace process.

[Signed] The Political Bureau, the KDP

25 July 1995

Kurdish Faction Positions, Reconciliation Discussed

95AE0048A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 95 p 19

[Article by Sami Shawrash, a Kurdish Iraqi Writer: "So That Budding Peace in Kurdistan May Last"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whatever the nature of the difference in the vision Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, the two Kurdish leaders, have of peace, of its importance, and of how it should be attained in Iraq's Kurdistan, it is evident that they have attained it as a result of Iranian pressures, according to some informed Kurdish sources. This development has been accompanied by each side's despair of moving the other side from the positions it controls and has culminated with the conviction that peace cannot be attained just with statements or by threatening the other side with the military option. Rather, it is more beneficial to express one's intention and to then translate it in the form of detailed realistic plans that reflect each side's vision of peace, its requirements, and the method to achieve it.

The most significant indication offered by both sides in this regard is in two peace plans that disagree on many things but agree on numerous other things. Regarding the Irbil issue, for example, the Barzani-led Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] believes that the solution should focus initially on disarming the city itself whereas the Talabani-led National Union of Kurdistan [NUK] believes that the problem is not confined just to the city but includes its vicinity. On the revenues issue, the DPK disregards the need to call them customs revenues whereas the NUK believes that it is necessary to remit all customs revenues, including the revenues from Ibrahim al-Khalil border station, to the regional government's treasury. The NUK also stresses that it is necessary that both sides present account statements on their expenditures from these revenues as of 1 May 1994; i.e., when the fuse of internecine Kurdish fighting was first ignited. Moreover, Talabani's plan urges the need for joint cooperation with the Unified Iraqi National Congress and with other Iraqi opposition factions to topple Saddam Husayn's regime and to establish a democratic Iraq. Barzani's plan devotes its attention to rearranging conditions and head offices inside the city of Irbil and to forming a new regional government. Despite these differences, the two plans include numerous common denominators that are fit to establish a serious peace, if some pitfalls that we will mention later are surpassed. The most important denominator is the two sides' wish to establish peace, normalize relations, activate the parliament, reform the regional government and expand its base, and withdraw forces from tense military positions, in addition to making the Iraqi National Congress and the Kurdish parties more effective. All this, rather the mere presentation of the two plans, is essentially a major step on the way to ending the internal fighting that has drained both sides, and all Kurds, for more than a year. But, despite this, one must point out:

First, peace plans that are put forth to end insurmountable differences and bloodshed, such as the inter-Kurdish fighting, are ultimately dead plans meant to please middlemen and not to rebuff their endeavors rudely. Such plans must be accompanied by the wish of both sides to sit together at the negotiation table and to engage in direct dialogue. They must also be coupled with extraction of the common denominators found in the projected plans and with a calm, frank, and serious face-to-face debate in the presence (or absence) of the middlemen to discuss the possibility of developing practical solutions to the points of contention, taking into account the need to renounce irresponsible intransigence and to show willingness to make mutual concessions.

If this condition is measured against the mistrust that has prevailed and continues to prevail between the two sides, the danger becomes more evident. In past mediations, the Unified Iraqi National Congress drafted practical plans to end the internecine fighting. But those plans died in the cradle because neither side was prepared to sit with the other on the pretext of the lack of trust. In a later development when amassed Iraqi forces were confronted on the secure zone borders last March, one of the two sides refused to conclude a temporary truce with the other side, arguing that it was not prepared to sign on the same paper with this side. When two delegations from the two sides headed for Tehran on Iran's invitation to mediate, that side again refused to sit together with the other side to discuss problems, arguing that peace could be established without direct meeting. The same thing happened when Kurdish and Iraqi parties mediated.

For all this, an observer is entitled to show growing concern over the fact that both plans are void of signs indicating that the two parties are prepared to embark on leadership-level political talks and to sit together at the same table to settle the existing problems. This gives the impression that pretexts will continue to be used to avoid a direct political meeting between the two sides.

Second, the two plans, especially the Barzani party plan, emphasize the need to end the mutual propaganda at the same time when combat is ended on the battlefronts. Such an emphasis is a must and a duty, especially in connection with irresponsible slander and defamation campaigns. But, if the emphasis means the obstruction of political competition and democratic struggle between the two sides, then it is dangerous.

Numerous Kurdish intellectuals believe that the obstruction of such competition in past years is the main reason for accumulated disagreements between the two sides and for their dangerous interaction far from the eyes of the citizens and their elected institutions, and then for their eruption in bloody conflicts. This is why many believe that, if ending the propaganda campaigns is interpreted as a prohibition against the development of a healthy and open state of dialogue and competition between the two sides and as elimination of the role of the citizens and their representatives in dealing with the existing bloody condition, then such an end will undoubtedly lead the current plans to the same fate encountered by past agreements between the two sides.

Third, the mere projection of plans is in itself a step forward, as we have already said. But this step cannot be made complete unless coupled with the display of mutual gestures that seek to clear the air between the two sides first and then between the two sides on the one hand and the citizens on the other. The most important things that can be done in this regard are: Pay the citizens' suspended salaries from customs revenues and remove military roadblocks and inspection points set up on public roads, especially those that link the major cities, such as Irbil, to other areas. The two sides should also permit the free movement of citizens and of the delivery of food supplies to towns through these roads.

Such steps may not have a direct impact on the course of the projected peace plans. But they will certainly contribute to creating a new climate for the citizens to rise and participate.

Whatever the situation, it is important that Kurdish factions realize that their region is approaching serious developments that affect their security and future directly. There is no better indication of this than Turkey's references to resumed attacks on northern Iraq and than Iraq's threats to terminate cooperation with the Security Council if the ban on its oil sales is not lifted in the next few months. There is, finally, the U.S.-imposed ban on Iran, which could result in a new tremor in the Middle East situation.

In this climate, peace and putting the house's internal affairs in order anew are extremely important to Iraq's Kurds who are affected more strongly than others, whether negatively or positively, by Middle East developments. Because of all of this, it is important that the projected peace plans be discussed seriously. It is also important that they be discussed through political confrontation and talks. It is unreasonable that two parties that have fought each other for more than a year do not possess the moral fortitude that guarantees that they will sit together at the same table for a period of two or three days.

Repair and Re-Operation of 2 Oilfields Reported

JN2707094295 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 4

[Report by Sa'ib 'Abd-al-Muhsin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Ta'mim — The Northern Oil Company, a unit of the Oil Ministry, has completed the work of re-operating two oilfields; namely, Saddam Oilfield and Khabbaz Oilfield, which were the target of attack during the sinful 30-state Zionist-NATO aggression.

Making this announcement, company General Manager Dr. Talal 'Ashur has affirmed: Our national teams and Oil Ministry strugglers have re-operated Khabbas Oilfield in record time, thereby scored a splendid success in their field of work. The oilfield is now ready for production as soon as the oil embargo is lifted. This oilfield used to be operated with the help of foreign company expertise.

Dr. 'Ashur continued: The Saddam Oilfield used to be operated by German companies. Now, however, it has been repaired in three stages. The final stage was completed last April. The oilfield is now ready for production and work as soon as the embargo is ended.

Dr. 'Ashur affirmed that company teams are ready to carry out any national duty assigned to them to express their absolute loyalty to the leader of the crossing.

Paper Reports on Railroad Maintenance in South

JN2707090995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah — The Railway Department in the southern region has completed all manual maintenance work on 85 kilometers of railroad between al-Daraji and Umm Qasr in al-Basrah. Department head Khalil 'Abd-al-Jalil has said the campaign involved replacing 3,000 concrete cross beams, using 50,000 plastic fillings, replacing 4,000 wooden cross beams and 1,000 joint beams, and removing and replacing a large number railroad sections.

Poverty, Starvation Reported in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN2607195995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The special correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] in al-Sulaymaniyah has reported that the group of Jalal Talabani has taken punitive measures against several of its gunmen who fled in the fight against Barzanis. They were fined the total of the amounts spent on them.

A Talabani group source informed the INA's special correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah that his group forced several real estate owners there to sell their real estate property to close aides of Jalal Talabani. The source added that confusion is plaguing the Jalalis and that armed groups of the Jalalis have forcibly evicted armed residents of Klar, Kifri, and Darbandikhan to make them take part in the fighting against the Barzanis in the areas of (Qasri) and Shahrbazar, which are located between Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah.

In a related development, a group of the Jalalis has managed to flee from the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. It sought refuge with the government authorities in Karkuk due to the severe suffering and extreme poverty and starvation prevailing in the al-Sulaymaniyah area.

As for the INA's special correspondent in Irbil, he has learned that the Barzanis have recently forced tens of families in the areas of (Qasri), Guman, Suran, and Shaqlawah to leave their places of residence on the pretext that their sons are fighting within the ranks of the Jalalis.

Commentary on UNSC Decision on Sanctions

95LH0196A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 May 96 p 6

[Article by Dr. Sami Sa'dun: "Security Council, Ekeus' Report, and Unjust Blockade in Light of Latest Periodic Review"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Security Council session No. 25 to review the issue of the "boycott of Iraq," ended with a statement by French Ambassador (Merimet?), the council chairman, to the effect that conditions are not yet ripe to lift the sanctions against Iraq. This means that the status quo will continue until next July's review.

This was no surprise to anybody. The clamor raised during the Security Council session on the unofficial consultations that preceded the session and on Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986 was also expected. The suspect U.S.-Kuwaiti moves, which preceded the date of the review and which aimed to block any endeavor to acknowledge Iraq's fulfillment of the basic obligations imposed on it in accordance with resolution 687, were also expected—an acknowledgment that would mean, as a start, lifting the economic blockade imposed on it—have also become familiar and their objectives are exposed. If the anti-Iraq U.S. moves were made in the past by pressuring Security Council members in New York, then the Clinton administration has been dispatching its envoys to tour various capitals for that purpose before the convocation of each session. Perhaps the two tours made by Madeleine Albright, U.S. delegate to the Security Council, before the reviews made last January and March provide the most immediate evidence. Every time, the Americans present one of the cards that they keep in store to offend Iraq, to create confusion in the Security Council, and to mislead the world public. When Kuwait and the borders imposed by resolution 833 were recognized and when the control system was put into operation in accordance with resolution 715, the United States could no longer do anything other than sow confusion and raise issues that have had nothing to do with the implementation of paragraph (22) of resolution 687. In the latest review session, Albright raised the issue of Kuwaiti properties and MIAs to remind us of the presence of Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the so-called Kuwaiti Prisoners and MIAs Committee, in New York during the review. Before that, al-Sabah had toured a number of capitals to instigate for continuation of the anti-Iraq blockade by bemoaning the fabricated story of the "prisoners." There is no problem where these two issues are concerned. The UN secretary general is in charge of the properties issue, and he is satisfied with the mechanism established for it and with Iraqi cooperation in this regard. The UN General Secretariat reports have lauded this cooperation. The same goes for the MIAs issue. The International Red Cross Committee that is in charge of this "dossier" is satisfied with Iraq's cooperation, and it carries on with its work. Iraq returned all the Kuwaitis it had in its control as soon as the military aggression halted. As for the allegation that there are still other MIAs, the search for them continues and it may take some time because they are MIAs. The latest example of Iraqi cooperation was the Iraqi proposal that the three-party committee entrusted with the issue meet at Safwan to facilitate matters and speed up the termination of this issue. This refutes Albright's statements in which she alleged that Iraq is trying to conclude a separate deal on the MIAs outside the Red Cross framework! This is ridiculous, considering that Iraq has returned the Kuwaitis it had in its control, including some members of the al-Sabah clan. If Iraq had any plans to use prisoners as a political card, as Albright falsely alleges, it would have kept the important ones among them. These are facts to everybody, and they need no proof. Despite this, the U.S. delegate to the council has raised this issue.

Contrary to the provisions of Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 687 that ties lifting the anti-Iraq economic blockade to closing the dossier of the weapons prohibited to the country, and so as to embroil the Security Council in an issue that is being handled by an international committee over which the council has no power, Albright demanded in her address to the latest session that Kuwaiti MIAs and property, especially what it called "valuable weapons," be returned, making it conditional that the weapons be returned in working condition! Else, "there will be no chance of a change in the sanctions system!" It is as if Albright has forgotten that more than 110,000 tons of bombs were dumped on Iraq in the tyrannical aggression, sparing nothing, not even the "cherished" properties whose return, "hale and healthy," Albright demands as a precondition. The demand for returning the "MIAs" would be excusable if Albright ignored the presence of thousands of American MIAs in Vietnam and ignored the fact that endeavors to find out their fates are still ongoing. It seems that Albright's Zionist origins (she is a Czech Jewess) have overpowered her Americanism and have caused her to overlook these facts and to act so aggressively toward Iraq. Even though confident that the blockade would be extended in this review session, which is something for which she had worked, Albright sought cunningly and maliciously to compel the council to revive what is known as the (Ajala Jesos?) formula. Ajala, Ecuador's representative at the council in 1991, proposed the formula of the statement to be issued by the council at the conclusion of each review session. But the majority of the council members confronted the U.S. endeavor and insisted on being content with what is stated by the Security Council president in accordance with the formula followed as of March 1994. This shows that a positive relationship has developed between Iraq and the Security Council and that there is "no unanimity" on prolonging the blockade. The council's position is embodied in two factions: The first representing the majority of the council members who acknowledge Iraq's positive stance, who appreciate its cooperation, who stress the need to encourage it, and who call for the legal interpretation of council resolutions, including provisions concerning the implementation of paragraph (22) of resolution 687. The second faction consists of the minority and is represented by the U.S. and British delegates fundamentally. This faction calls for prolonging the blockade as much as possible for "political and oil" reasons that are no longer secret to anybody.

One rumor spread by the U.S.-Zionist propaganda machine in this review is that Iraq has suspended its relations with the Security Council and that it will halt its cooperation, particularly with the special committee. This rumor has caused some parties, especially Iraq's friends who are working to submit a draft resolution to implement paragraph (22) on lifting the blockade against Iraq, to express concern and to inquire about the truth, warning Iraq against being drawn into something like this and urging the need that Iraq continue its cooperation and that it fill the remaining gaps pertaining to its past armament programs. This is an issue that Ekeus raised in his latest report (April 1995). During his meetings in New York with Security Council member states before and after the latest review session, his excellency the foreign minister dispersed these clouds of suspicion and deception by emphasizing that Iraq is steady in its cooperation with the council so paragraph 22 will be implemented and so the abnormal conditions imposed on it will be removed. The foreign minister also emphasized Iraq's rejection of U.S. resolution 986 and clarified in detail the reasons for this rejection. The members understood this position. The minister then reaffirmed Iraq's demand that the council meet its obligations in accordance with its own resolutions and that it implement in particular paragraph (22) of resolution 687; i.e., lift the economic blockade as a first step toward the final solution to the hardship of the patient Iraqi people, especially since Iraq has fulfilled the fundamental obligations imposed on it by the Security Council resolutions.

The current position within the Security Council on the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq is summed up in that the majority of the council members demand the implementation of paragraph (22), preceded by a report by Ekeus declaring that the dossier of weapons banned to Iraq in accordance with resolution 687 has been closed. The question raised now is: When will Ekeus submit his report?

The tangible material facts and the outcome of Iraq's dealings with Ekeus for a long time, beginning in 1991, do not call for reassurance, if the Security Council gives Ekeus a "free hand" and puts the fate of 20 million people at his mercy. Ekeus has never maintained a constant position. The years of dealings with Ekeus have witnessed Ekeus' vacillation in opinion and his inconstancy, even to documented words he has made in his public statements. He acknowledged in 1993 that 95 percent of the special committee's mission had been accomplished and that, as soon as Iraq agreed to resolutions 707 and 715 concerning future control, he would submit his report to demand the implementation of paragraph (22) of resolution 687. Moreover, the fabricated current clamor concerning the biological weapons dossier is amazing, considering that this dossier was closed in 1992 and its closure confirmed.

What made the special committee close that dossier if it had doubts about it? Why has Ekeus timed his raising of these doubts to coincide with this circumstance under which hope that the blockade will be lifted has gotten closer, especially since the international position has shifted in favor of the cooperative Iraq? Moreover, Ekeus noted in his brief presentation to the Security Council members in January 1995 that gaps existed in the biological dossier. However, he assured the council that dossiers of the chemical weapons and missiles had been closed and that what remained were simple issues that would be resolved in a short time. In his latest talks in Baghdad (February 1995), Ekeus promised that he would note these facts in the comprehensive report he was going to submit to the council in April 1995. What happened was something different, considering that that report was even worse than Ekeus' previous reports and that it contained enough dark and gray areas to cast doubts on the accomplishments made. In this report, Ekeus spoke of the presence of gaps and deficiencies in the three dossiers, most significantly in the biological weapons dossier, thus raising the issue of banned weapons anew and confirming the fears that the so-called "dossier of Iraq's past armament programs" would become an endless story!

The crux of paragraph (22) of resolution 687 was fulfilled, and Ekeus emphasized this fact in his answer to a question addressed to him during his latest visit to Baghdad. The question was: Does present-day Iraq pose, despite the presence of the doubts and the gaps in the biological dossier, a threat to the region's security and peace? Ekeus answered: No. He also answered negatively when he was asked the same question by a number of Security Council members during their discussion of his report on 10 April 1995. So the main objective of the special committee's task has been accomplished. The doubts raised over the so-called "biological cultures" and the artificial exaggeration of this issue are doubts based on no material evidence but on intentions and interpretations. Ekeus, along with his experts, was dumbfounded by specialized Iraqi technicians with whom he had lengthy meetings during his previous visit to Baghdad. So Ekeus could find nothing with which to conceal his dilemma. Yet, he clung to his demand that he verify the information in his possession, even though it was misleading information emanating from U.S., British, and similar intelligence circles. He insisted on finding out the fate of the "missing tons" that Iraq had imported in past years. The officials concerned provided detailed clarifications, all of which are well known to the special committee experts. These materials do not last long, and one needs special technology to tend them. They also need to be stored under very special freezing and cooling temperatures. All these are things that Iraq lacked during the tyrannical aggression and during the treachery and treason phase. Electric power was cut off from Baghdad for more than two months and from other cities for several months, thus exposing those materials, if they existed, to certain and inevitable destruction. This is in addition to the riots that swept numerous cities and whose damage reached even hospitals. Despite this, the committee continues to make the same accusations. This position can be interpreted only as a premeditated contribution to prolonging the crime of the unjust blockade against the patient Iraqi people. The ball is absolutely not in Iraq's court [but in] Ekeus' court. Moreover, some Security Council members believe that the special committee is not at all blameless for going along with the political game aiming to maintain the blockade. The United States and Britain are behind this game mainly. Iraq has fulfilled the fundamental obligations required of it. It has been deprived of its heavy weapons, and the control system "has been put into operation." This is enough to implement paragraph (22) of resolution 687, which is a step that the Security Council must take, regardless of whether Ekeus submits his report or not. The Security Council members, especially those harmed by the continued blockade against Iraq, must pressure in this direction and must warn Ekeus against continuing to tow the line of this or that country's political game and against using the special committee as a means to prolong the blockade. They must warn him that he will be accountable for the painful humanitarian consequences of his actions, not to mention the economic consequences of these actions to numerous countries. The "elasticity" that has characterized his committee's work and the boundless time given to the special committee's work could lead to frustration and to the suspension of cooperation generally, thus causing Ekeus' mission to fail. This is especially true since the Security Council adopted at the beginning of last year a resolution, as a result of a convincing Iraqi effort, a resolution requiring Ekeus to submit a monthly report to the council members, in addition to his periodic reports. This has made his committee's action visible whereas it had been vague and fluid previously.

Because the special committee's mission and what is rumored about Iraq's past armament programs have become something very akin to endless fictitious stories, duty dictates that the Security Council embrace a new and serious method of action to deal with the special committee, defining its tasks, making it accountable, and restricting it to the technical frameworks pertaining to the nature of its work. Duty also dictates that Ekeus urge the committee end its mission, which has been prolonged in response to the wish of well-known parties for purely political objectives. It is hoped that Ekeus will make another visit to Baghdad at the end of this month of May. We hope this will be the final visit through which remaining gaps will be filled so Ekeus will then declare that the special committee has completed the mission entrusted to it by the Security Council. Iraq has cooperated in an utterly positive manner with the council and the special committee. It has responded to additional demands that have nothing to do with paragraph (22) in the hope of motivating the council to adopt a resolution lifting the blockade against the patient people. Iraq is continuing this cooperation to accomplish this objective. If the current conditions, which have surpassed the customary and reached a climax, persist, then the unbearable situation, which can withstand no delay, will become more serious. This situation requires that the Security Council respect its charter and reaffirm its credibility in accordance with the principles of justice and fairness. It requires the council to take a decisive and immediate resolution to end the Iraqi people's hardship. This solution lies in implementing paragraph (22) of resolution 687 as a first step toward the complete lifting of the tyrannical blockade. It is not right to be lax about implementing this paragraph. The Security Council is confronted now with a historic responsibility that requires the council to put the special committee face to face with its responsibilities and to prompt it to declare the conclusion of its mission, which all evidence indicates has actually been technically completed. Delay is unjustifiable. The responsibility of the special committee and of its chairman is a moral, humanitarian, and historical responsibility connected with the fate of millions of people. This makes its necessary to fulfill this responsibility promptly and far from the hateful political games.

Editorial Hails 17-30 Jul Revolution Anniversary

JN2707093895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jul 95 pp 1,2

[Editorial marking 27th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution: "A Faithful Struggle Stand and Absolute Confidence in Victory"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With hearts filled with faith, hope, conviction, aspiration, and optimism, glorious Iraqis and righteous Arabs celebrate today the 27th anniversary of their great revolution, the 17-30 July Revolution, and recall with pride its brave struggle stands in facing the challenges and plans which were directed against it as it resisted the U.S. tyrant with full resolution and determination.

If it is correct to say that every year that passes provides the revolution with more energy, experience, and the spiritual and material means for regeneration, maturity, and ability to interact with problems and changes, the 27th year has enhanced its ability and determination to adhere to its faithful struggle stand, which has become the guiding torch for all those who defend the values of goodness, right, and virtue, and strengthened its willpower to challenge, resist, and overcome all the hardships and obstacles which have emerged in the economic and social fields due to the continuation of the unfair blockade for more than five years now.

The developments and changes which have taken place in our region and the world between July 1994 and July 1995 have confirmed beyond any doubt the sound assessments and correct conclusions of the historical Iraqi leadership regarding the international situation and the blockade. U.S. domination of the international community and international decision making has begun to weaken and recede gradually, the coalition which war criminal Bush had created for aggression on Iraq early in 1991 has also begun to disintegrate and collapse, and the feeble excuses which the United States uses to maintain the blockade on our people and country have been fully exposed and shot down, so that no one is convinced of them other than Washington's lackeys and slaves.

When we also add to all these the fact that Iraq has succeeded in breaking through the cordon of the political blockade which the evil forces have imposed and defeating what the Americans term the policy of dual containment in order to completely isolate and besiege Iraq, we have every right to feel pleased and satisfied that Iraq's international role and relations are indeed very promising, as comrade leader Saddam Husayn has said in the comprehensive historic speech which he made at the 11th congress of our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of Iraq.

On the internal level, and despite the enormous economic and social problems and hardships resulting from the blockade, the powerful 17-30 July Revolution under the leadership of comrade struggler Saddam Husayn is proceeding strongly and firmly toward achieving its aims and principles. In fact, Ba'thist combat prowess has risen to more commendable levels than was the case two or three years ago. The ability of the party and the revolution to confront its enemies has increased. The party has also restored its position as the main institution, after the armed forces, leading the people and their social organizations, as the comrade leader Saddam Husayn explained in his speech at the [11th party] congress of the crossing.

Thus, the failure of U.S. aggression to undermine the will of our great people has been established, and the failure of this unusual blockade to weaken the spirit of jihad and resistance, and the brave Iraqi people's strong faith in the justice of their cause and the inevitability of their triumph has been confirmed. Pressure, threats, and campaigns of deception, distortion, and falsification in the media have failed miserably in influencing the Iraqi people's options, convictions, and singular solidarity with their historical leader Saddam Husayn.

Our loyal people, who cannot forget the splendid gains and victories which the blessed July Revolution has made for them throughout its victorious march, and the radical, deep changes its has wrought in their life, will continue to recall with gratitude and appreciation all that had been achieved and which would not have been possible were it not for the July Revolution and its creative program and were it not also for the genius, creative thought, and foresight of the inspired leader Saddam Husayn. Indeed, our people understand that were it not for the strategic leadership of the comrade leader Saddam Husayn, their life would not have changed and they would not have seized their opportunity to life, construction, and general awakening.

While we celebrate today the 27th anniversary of the immortal and glorious July revolution and prepare for the final crossing to the bank of security, victory, and safety, our confidence in victory is absolute. It is a confidence which we derive from our ability, struggle, and strong faith in God, the people, the nation, and the principles of our great party. Truely, if all our enemies were to get together — and you will recall that they had indeed gotten together before, but their gathering was based on falsehood and ours on right — they would only reap disappointment and disgrace. Damn what they are reaping.

Glory to the mother of revolutions, the great 17-30 July Revolution.

Greetings to the leader of the revolution and the captain of the ship of the crossing, comrade struggler Saddam Husayn

Blessed are your holidays, O Iraqis.

Autonomy Talks To Resume; Syria Talks Deadlocked

TA2707050695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the negotiations with the Palestinians will be resumed today or tomorrow at various sites in Israel and the full delegations will convene next week. The talks were suspended after the Ramat Gan bus bombing on Monday.

Peres told Israel Television last night that the talks with Syria remain deadlocked. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was due to meet Syria's ambassador on Tuesday night, after his return from Damascus. In the foreign minister's words, the Syrian talks are on the back burner, moving at a turtle's pace. Peres also believed that one of the problems was that Syria's president was unaccustomed to the workings of a democratic society. The foreign minister added there was no certainty of an agreement with Syria. He went on to say: We are not beginning to understand al-Asad's way of thinking, and I'm not sure he understand ours.

Envoy on Jordanian Parliament's Decision on Boycott

TA2707082295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir expressed satisfaction with the Jordanian Parliament's decision to abolish the anti-Israel boycott laws. The ambassador noted that yesterday's decision was passed by a larger majority than the first reading, and this may point to a constant improvement in the atmosphere. Interviewed by our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus, Amb. Shamir said the vote in the Jordanian Parliament may be regarded as a turning point in relations between the two countries and the beginning of a new phase.

Editorial Urges End to U.S. 'Interference'

TA2707105595 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Not a Banana Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reports about behind-the-scenes moves by the U.S. Embassy in Israel to torpedo the Golan law point to a dangerous trend of U.S. interference in Israel's internal affairs. According to these reports, Ambassador Martin Indyk raised the subject in his meeting with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Chairman Arye Der'i and explained to him "the danger posed to the peace process with Syria if the Golan law is passed." In a radio interview, Der'i presented a milder version of the meeting and its contents, but their gist remained unchanged. It transpired from his public pronouncements that the U.S. ambassador had definitely acted in the aforementioned direction.

Interference by a foreign government, however friendly it may be, in Israel's internal affairs is an intolerable deed. It should be pointed out that the U.S. Administration has engaged systematically in such activities for some time. On the eve of the last elections, the Bush administration adopted a clear stand against the Likud government and used the issue of the loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants from the former Soviet Union to influence the elections. The Clinton administration has been "producing" spectacular ceremonies as a backdrop for political events, including some of marginal importance, to influence Israeli public opinion. To wit, it has gone out of its way to host the signing ceremony by Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat on the second stage of the Oslo agreement, regardless of the ongoing terror and bloody attacks in Israel and the failure to abide by the commitment to abolish the Palestine National Covenant with regard to "Israel's annihilation." The Americans know very well that the Israeli people are split over the issue and that this staged ceremony will hurt and pain a vast part of the nation. The President's advisers apparently believe this will benefit him in the domestic arena in anticipation of the upcoming election campaign. This assessment is most probably wrong, because U.S. public opinion, just like the Israeli one, is aware of the illusory nature of those agreements, the fact that the signatory on the Palestinian side has not complied with his avowed commitments, and that, in effect, terror continues to rage. What matters most, however, is that the U.S. Administration has been trying to influence public opinion in Israel with regard to an internal conflict.

This has now been compounded by the interference concerning the Golan law. The U.S. Administration had better know that this interference is deeply resented here. Israel is not a banana republic, where a foreign government interferes in the country's internal affairs by taking advantage of its power and strength to determine the country's regime and policy.

IAF Raids 'Terrorist Targets' in Jabal Safi

TA2607133995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were lightly wounded in a clash with terrorists in south Lebanon's security zone. The IDF spokesman reported that Israel Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in Jabal Safi. All our planes returned safely to base.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Paris Bombing

TA2707100995 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 26 Jul 95

[Communication issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel vehemently condemns the murderous attack which occurred yesterday (Tuesday), 25.07.95, in the Paris metro station. We wish to express our shock and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives. We send condolences to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured. The people of Israel, who have more than once been forced to contend with blind, indiscriminate terrorism, identifies in a special way with the French people in these difficult hours, in which it too stands face to face with the terrible and meaningless slaughter of innocent people. Indiscriminate terrorism is an international phenomenon requiring a coordinated effort by the international community to uproot it.

Three Arrested for Shooting at al-Husayni's Home

TA2607172595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jerusalem District Police have arrested three Jewish residents of the city near Orient House on suspicion of opening fire near the home of Mr. Faysal al-Husayni in the al-Suwanah neighborhood.

Our police affairs correspondent Kayid Zahir adds that four persons, believed to be members of an extreme right-wing party, came to the al-Suwanah neighborhood and fired shots in the air, smashed the windshields of two cars, and fled. No one was hurt. Immediately, police forces led by the district police commander arrived at Mr. al-Husayni's home and launched a search. Some time later the police arrested the three individuals who had a pistol in their possession. The police confiscated the pistol and sent it for a forensic examination.

Closure of Territories To Continue for 1 Week

TA2607171895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The spokeswoman for the coordinator of government activities in the territories has stated that the security blockade imposed on the territories in the wake of the Ramat Gan incident will continue throughout this week with the exception of humanitarian cases such as the treatment of sick people, hospital staff, and special cases.

Bill Enclosing Ma'ale Adumim in Jerusalem Defeated

TA2607171695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset plenum has rejected a bill submitted by Likud Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Matza and Labor MK 'Imanu'el Zismann to include Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, and Giv'at Ze'ev within the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bill was defeated by a majority of 57 coalition members, versus 54 opposition members. Labor MK 'Imanu'el Zismann, one of the sponsors of the bill, abstained.

Commentator on Results of Golan Law Vote

TA2707124695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jul 95 p 5

[Commentary by Nehama Dowek: "For All the Winners, One Cannot See What Really Happened"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Qahalani, Netanyahu, and Rabin all managed to interpret the tie in the Knesset vote yesterday as a victory. The outcome, however, is slightly more complicated than all three of them are prepared to admit.

According to Shim'on Peres, "this vote has no significance whatsoever. If we reach an agreement, it will muster a far larger majority among the people and in the Knesset."

But if it had so little significance, why did Labor let the issue acquire such proportions instead of making clear that it was merely a preliminary reading of secondary importance which would anyway be buried in committee?

Binyamin Netanyahu claimed victory, but this victory entailed abandoning similar draft bills submitted by members of the opposition. The Likud knew very well that if these were put to a vote, the Labor Knesset members would have voted against them, which would have changed the score to 56 versus 62.

Where Alex Goldfarb and Gonen Segev are concerned, yesterday was a shortcut to the Labor primaries. Segev will be able to muster the support of the Israel Electric Corporation workers, after getting rid of 'Adi Amoray and appointing a crony as company chairman.

As for SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], this is yet further proof that they can have their cake and eat it, too — that is, support both peace with Syria and the Golan law — as well as proof that such a coalition situation is untenable.

Settlers Set up Permanent Building on Near Efrata

TA2607182895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Settlers have set up their first permanent building on Giv'at Hadagan near Efrata. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that they announced they will stay put despite the evacuation orders delivered by the Civil Administration on 24 July. They said, however, that they will not put up a violent resistance to the evacuation, but if evacuated, they will return to the site at once.

Some 20 families have been living in tents on the site for about a week.

Military Court Sentences 2 DFLP Members

TA2607182695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ramallah Military Court today sentenced two Ramallah residents, who had belonged to the military arm of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], to 18 and 12 years in prison.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the two were convicted of the murder of an Arab resident whom they suspected of collaboration with Israel, of an attempt to kidnap another Arab resident, and of placing an explosive device near the Ramallah District settlement of Matityahu.

Poll Shows Majority Against Continuing Talks

TA2507105695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jul 95 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Mutagim Institute]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question — In the wake of the Ramat Gan attack, do you believe the negotiations with the Palestinians should be continued?

Discontinued — 52 percent; continued — 37 percent; do not know — 9 percent; no response — 2 percent.

The poll was conducted by the Mutagim Institute on 24 July and encompassed 509 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel. Margin of error is 4.5 percent.

House Votes 51-19 To End Israeli Economic Boycott

JN2607164095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Fifty one deputies out of 72 voted for the draft law as it was presented by the government, with amendments introduced by the joint committee formed from the finance and legal committees of the House of Representatives. The draft law was opposed by 19 deputies.

The house discussed the decision of the joint committee on this draft law and its recommendations, which ask the government to present a draft law that bans monopoly and protects national economy. The government said it is committed to this during the reply of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir to questions raised on this subject.

The committee recommended asking the government to continue its efforts to ensure that the Jordanians will get their rights and properties in Israel. Amendments were introduced to the law, including Article 6 which bans any non—Arab individual from buying, hiring, or possessing directly or indirectly any immovable property in the kingdom except within terms set by the committee in the amendment.

In addition to the committee's decision, the house heard the violations [in the draft law] as explained by some committee members concerning the draft law and some of its articles. These members demanded that the draft law be turned down. A lengthy discussions on these violations took place, and a number of deputies demanded that these violations be redressed, while others demanded that the law's articles be discussed.

Article 1 was on naming the law. The house heard all views and proposals presented in this field, which demanded a specific identification of who is the enemy. However, the house approved the formula presented by the government, which was endorsed by the committee as it is.

The house approved other articles as they were presented by the committee, but it discussed in length Article 6 which was added by the joint committee in order to improve the law. During the discussions, Legal Committee Chairman 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, who read the decision of the joint committee and defended it before the house, stressed that Jordanian land is immunized by this amendment. He said that through this amendment, the committee cannot accept selling land to individuals whatever their nationalities might be, and said this subject was dealt with following a series of consultations with several experts to avoid any mistakes.

In light of the proposals made by deputies on Article 8, the house decided to make an amendment in accordance with a proposal presented by Deputy 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Shakhanibah. The house then voted on Article 9, which abrogates the law on banning the selling of real estate to the enemy No. 30, 1973 and the unified law on the boycott of Israel No.10, 1958, and the law that bans trading with Israel No. 66, 1953.

At the end of the deliberations, the speaker put the draft law as a whole to the vote, and won the majority. [passage omitted]

More on Parliament Vote; Islamists Comment

JN2707104695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27-28 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Sa'ida al-Kilani "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday [26 July] made history when it approved, by a vote of 51 to 19, a draft law that ends Jordan's decades-old boycott of Israel as an enemy state.

The 1995 draft, which has been under continuous and ferocious attacks for a long time from the House's Islamist and leftist deputies as well as from opposition parties in the Kingdom, allows land sale to foreigners, including Israelis, but under strict conditions.

The Islamic Action Front deputies, who attended the session but refrained from making any comment during the House's discussions of the law, criticised the House's final vote and described it as a crime against the nation.

"Those who voted in favour of the law will later discover they were mistaken and that what they did was in fact a crime," IAF deputy Bassam al-'Umush told the Jordan Times.

Dr al-'Umush said that taking part in the discussions was "futile" since the majority, of 50 pro-government deputies, needed for the endorsement of the draft law already existed. He said that the Islamist deputies decided not to boycott the session in order to make their stand clear "for history's sake."

Outside parliament, about 150 demonstrators staged a sit-in for two hours in front of parliament to protest against the law.

The draft law will now go to the Upper House of Parliament where it is expected to be passed will then be endorsed by His Majesty King Husayn. Three laws that ban dealings with Israel will be eliminated. When the law gets finally endorsed it will correct three laws that ban dealing with Israel: a 1973 law that bans land sale to Israel, a 1958 law for boycotting Israel and a 1953 law that bans trade with Israel.

"The endorsement of the law is a sharp violation of international treaty among member states of the Arab League," said nine opposition deputies in a memorandum presented to the House's joint judiciary and financial committee during its discussion of the draft last week, the memorandum, which was read during Wednesday's session, also warned of future Israeli infiltration, through Jordan, into the international, Arab and Muslim countries markets."

But 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, chairman of the House's judiciary committee, said that the draft law had passed through many stages before its final version was presented to the House.

He said that the draft law, which was referred to the House's judiciary and financial committee after a heated session last month, during which the opposition could only manage 21 votes against 46 in favour, had been substantially amended. He said the opinions of a large number of experts, deputies and ministers have been taken into consideration leading to a number of amendments that were also approved by the government.

The final amendments, approved on Wednesday by the House, condition land sale to foreigners with reciprocal treatment of Jordanians in the foreigners country of origin. In Israel, the state owns 93 per cent of the land and bans the sale of private ownership to foreigners.

The amendments also make land sale to foreigners contingent upon the government's approval. All property sale to foreigners will also be published in the daily newspapers.

"When land sale deals are published in the local newspapers, Jordanians will be aware of every step taken by the government in this regard and will consequently have the opportunity to contest its decision," said Mr. al-Dughmi.

Mr. al-Dughmi said that the law also covers dual nationality Israelis.

"And even if the land were to be sold to foreigners, that does not mean that they are going to dominate us," he added.

Although there were no objections and not many deputies were asking questions, Mr. al-Dughmi insisted on explaining the reasons behind introducing the amendments to the draft.

The deputies who spoke during the five-hour session were mainly the leftist or centrist deputies who offered many proposals for amendments that were all rejected by the majority of the House.

The law is in line with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty that was signed on Oct. 26 last year and ended nearly five decades of enmity with Israel.

Although Islamist deputies did not participate actively in the discussions, they objected against procedures. Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr boycotted the session saying that he was prevented from expressing his opinions and Bassam al-'Umush contested the House secretariat's vote counting.

Hamzah Mansur also criticized Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah for saying that the deputies who voted against referring the draft to the joint judiciary and financial committee will also vote this time against the draft as a whole.

"This is against the law. You cannot possible make generalisations about the deputies' stands," Mr. Mansur, the IAF spokesperson said. In addition to 13 Islamist deputies present, Salih Sha'watah, Talal 'Ubaydat, Tujan Faysal, Khalil Haddadin, Bassam Haddadin and Mustafa Shunaykat voted against the law.

Eight lawmakers were absent from the session.

Crown Prince, Israeli Minister Tour Mostar

JN2607165795 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince has visited Mostar city in former Yugoslavia. The city is a symbol of coexistence among rival ethnic groups who had chosen to live in peace instead of bloody conflicts.

Prince Hasan was accompanied by Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbegovic, and Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic. Jordan and Israel are leading a joint humanitarian mission in the former Yugoslavia.

Responding to the demands of the city council, his royal highness said Jordan has always been ready to take part in the reconstruction of Mostar, devastated by fighting. The crown prince stressed that Jordan was prepared to take part in reconstruction work, especially the Islamic sites. He said the kingdom was to attend a conference on rebuilding and rehabilitating Sarajevo, but the meeting was postponed indefinitely.

His royal highness visited the mosque of Mostar and met a number of Muslim scholars and the chief justice of the city. The crown prince said the interfaith dialogue now promoted by Jordan and establishment of different integrated communities regardless of ethnic and ideological trends are the best ways for solving conflicts between countries within a framework of tolerance.

Prince Returns From Bosnia; King Makes Statement

JN2607185395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty received His Highness Crown Prince Hasan upon his return along with his delegation to the homeland this evening. The delegation represents the Jordanian relief mission to the Bosnian people, within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Israeli mission, that was carried out at the initiative of His Majesty King Husayn and a response by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [passage omitted]

At the airport, King Husayn replied to correspondents' questions.

[Begin recording] [King Husayn, in English] This is a total humiliation for the world; it is a total abrogation of everything that we believe in, in terms of codes and ethics; it's a violation of human rights and a violation of the United Nations and the will of the world, really. Something has to be done to stop it.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] I have another point, it's not clear for me. Jordan has no real influence, if you look at all the conferences in London and in other places in the world, but you are contributing a lot. There is more than 3,000 soldiers.

[King Husayn, in English] [Words indistinct] we don't have the kind of influence that produces nothing. At least we are doing something, and we are very happy about that.

[Hasan, in English] May I [words indistinct] moral influence of the Jordanian, the respect for the role that they are contributing — not least of all, from the refugees whom I visited today—they said they are not actually refugees, they are dispossessed people in those camps in Tuzla — is enormous. There is tremendous respect for what Jordan is doing, and I think this represents great credit on all sides.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you have announced that you may withdraw the Jordanian forces from the UN forces if these forces remained unable to protect the people.

[King Husayn] The forces are part of the UN forces there, and as long as there is any hope that they can serve in peace-keeping, which is their basic duty, then their presence will continue. We are in contact with all parties until the situation becomes clear. [end recording]

King Husayn Receives Iraqi Foreign Minister

JN2607154595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf at the Royal Hashemite Court today. Al—Sahhaf was on an Arab tour, during which he relayed messages from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Arab leaders regarding the Iraqi position, which is responsive to and cooperative with the UN commission assigned the task of dismantling the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Al-Sahhaf pointed out that Iraq has responded favorably to the UN Security Council resolutions that concern this category of weapons, and that it looks forward to a reciprocal response by the UN Security Council that would set the stage for a revocation of the embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, who are suffering under the sanctions.

The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Public Liberties Committee Discusses Memorandum

JN2507183395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head and members of the Public Liberties and Citizens' Rights Committee at the House of Representatives today met with Salamah Hammad, minister of interior, and Nadir al-Zuhayrat, minister of municipal and rural affairs and environment. Mahmud al-Huwaymil, head of the committee, said that discussions with the minister of municipal affairs dealt with the memorandum that the Islamic Action Front [IAF] presented to the committee on registration and voting procedures in al-Zarqa'. He stressed that the dialogue lived up to the level of responsibility and nationalism, noting that it was constructive and went on amid a very relaxed atmosphere.

He added that the minister responded to questions, noting: We, as a committee, are not a judicial body to decide on the issue. However, we will reach conclusions, which will be included in the report we will present to the council authorized to make the decision.

Al-Huwaymil noted that the minister of municipal affairs said that if any citizen is harmed by these procedures, then he must resort to the court.

On the issue of withdrawal of passports and the issue of detainees, deputy al-Huwaymil said that they talked about the issue of replacing five-year passports with two-year passports. The minister explained the basis on which Jordanian nationality is granted and on which five-year passports are withdrawn, stressing that the Ministry of Interior refers to the law on this issue.

Al-Huwaymil added that the committee has provided the names of certain people who were recently arrested. He explained that the interior minister said that these people were arrested with an official arrest warrant from the prosecutor general of the State Security Court and that their arrest is legal and does not constitute any violation of the law, noting that some detainees were freed.

Damascus Reports Knesset Rejection of Golan Bill

JN2607190495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Palestine — The Israeli Knesset today rejected the draft bill to legalize the Israeli occupation of the occupied Golan.

The vote in the Knesset ended in a tie between those who oppose and those who support the draft bill; 59 votes against and 59 for. This defeated the draft bill which was submitted by three members of the ruling Labor Party and which was supported by the Likud and the rightwing parties.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres admitted before the results of the vote that the passage of this draft bill at the Knesset will be another obstacle to the attainment of a full and comprehensive peace in the region.

Damascus Radio on Jordan Vote on Israel Boycott

JN2607171295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The Jordanian House of Representatives today voted with a majority of 51 to 19 on rescinding all laws that banned Jordanians from dealing with Israel and selling real estate to the Israelis.

Deputies opposed to abolishing Israel's boycott made remarks lending support to their positions. Deputy Dr. Mustafa Shunayakat said that the material causes for the Arab-Israeli conflict are still there as Israel is still occupying Arab lands in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. He noted the presence of more than one million Palestinians on Jordanian territory who were displaced due to this conflict. He said that the rights and properties of these people have been confiscated by Israel. He added that media, political, and discriminatory laws are still implemented in Israel. He went on to say that a unilateral cancellation of laws that were based on collective Arab agreements issued by the Arab League is a severe blow to the joint Arab action and Arab solidarity and isolates Jordan from the Arab world and weakens it.

Deputy Talal 'Ubaydat warned that the condition of reciprocal treatment does not protect Jordanian lands from falling into the hands of the Israelis because the latter hold multiple nationalities at a time when Israel bans selling land and real estate to anyone other than Jews. Deputy 'Ubaydat cited (Neharim) settlement as an example. He said that this settlement remained in the hands of Jews because the Jewish Engineer (Binhas Rotenburg), who was a German national, had earlier bought it. He said this is a clear example to all.

Opposition deputies made remarks in which they said that the abrogation of the unified law of 1958 on boycotting Israel and the law on banning trade with Israel of 1953 is not permissible as long as the government does not provide substitute laws that would protect the Jordanian trade, economy, and funds from falling under the hegemony of any foreigner, particularly the Israeli enemy. They said that it is not enough for the government to forward such a law; it should forwarded this law before canceling boycott laws.

Opposition deputies also read a memorandum on the reasons for their rejection of the law on the economic boycott and banning dealings with the enemy of 1995. The memorandums said: This draft law is based on the peace treaty with Israel. This treaty and its law have many shortcomings, including the fact that this law contradicts the constitution which stipulates that the Kingdom of Jordan is a single and inseparable state. The reason why this law is deemed null and void is because it relinquishes all the lands of the West Bank in violation of the text of the Constitution.

The deputies said that the treaty was imposed on Jordan. They added that ceasing to consider Israel as an enemy is illegal because Israel is still occupying Arab lands and is still displacing the Palestinian people and confiscating their rights. They stressed that abolishing the unified boycott law is a blatant encroachment upon an international and regional treaty among member states of the Arab League. They noted that passing this law will enable Israel to buy Jordanian land and pervade the Jordanian economy, thus posing many dangers to Jordan.

Iraqi Opposition Leader Visits, Discusses Plans

LD2607154395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1326 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 26 Jul — Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has declared he is visiting Damascus to discuss with the Iraqi opposition a plan to topple the regime of Baghdad. He also denied that the aim of his visit was "to settle" in Damascus.

In an exclusive interview with the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, during his current visit to Damascus, al-Hakim talked about all the developments on the Iraqi arena. He said "the plan is to reactivate action on the ground and find leaders on the ground who will be in charge of this action and who will reflect the unity of the Iraqi people."

He added that during his visit "he will hold meetings with the Iraqi political forces present in Syria with a view to following up the above mentioned plan. He will also meet Syrian officials to follow-up some issues and ideas that had been discussed with them when they visited Tehran."

It is worth mentioning that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran last month and discussed with Iranian officials a number of regional and international issues of common interest.

Al-Hakim also said: "Our talks with the Syrian officials in Tehran dealt with the huge tragedy the Iraqi people lives with under Saddam Husayn's regime and also with the need for all the forces of good to take a unified stand to rescue the Iraqi people from these tragic conditions."

Replying to a question on the outcome of his recent European tour and the plan to form an Iraqi Government in northern Iraq, al-Hakim said: "We did not talk about forming a transitional government in northern Iraq; we talked about the need to develop a field action in confronting the regime."

He affirmed: "Field action is the solution because the conditions the Iraqi people and regime in general are experiencing now are appropriate for a wide field action, especially now that the Iraqi Army's loyalty to the regime has disintegrated and the army has began to confront the regime."

He said: "This field action would start with a confrontation with the regime from the south and north to be followed by coordination and cooperation with Iraqi Army units to join in the action. Subsequently the regime would become isolated from the people and army and then collapse."

Al-Hakim went on to say: "We are still following up this plan in which we have moved few steps. A few indications and events have taken place that proved the credibility of this plan."

Replying to a question on the government changes the Baghdad regime made recently, especially in the portfolios of the interior and defense ministries, al-Hakim said these changes were "because of internal differences in the ruling family and party."

He added: "There are two aspects to these differences: The familial state that is dominating and controlling the situation from within the regime and was clearly demonstrated in the dismissal of Interior Minister Watban, Saddam's maternal stepbrother, as well as of Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. The other aspect is the line of interparty differences from which the regime has started to suffer."

Al-Hakim said: "From this premise, one can explain that Saddam does not allow anyone to have real power and move from a power position. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid became bigger than he should be, in Saddam's opinion. This is why he dismissed him from the Defense Ministry in the same way he assassinated 'Adnan Khayrallah previously." However, al-Hakim said: "Al-Majid represents the man whose mission according to Saddam is to liquidate the unwanted elements. This is why he removed him from the Defense Ministry and entrusted him with a party task to liquidate the elements [word indistinct] who have been causing a problem to the regime recently."

He pointed in this context to the missions carried out by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid in the northern regions of Iraq, his use of chemical weapons against the sons of the Iraqi people, in addition to the ugly crimes he had committed against the sons of the Kuwaiti people during the period of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

About the coup attempt led by Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi in the middle of last month, al-Hakim said: "The stance of the Ramadi tribes represents a turning in the movement of all the Iraqi people in its confrontation with the regime. This incident will not be the last, it will be followed by similar other ones such as the one that took place recently between the Mawsil tribes and the regime's forces because of the regime's attempt to seize the agricultural crops."

He pointed out in this context the fact "that Mawsil, on which Saddam is counting and from which he appointed Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad as a defense minister, is likely to start disturbances against the regime similar to those which took place in Ramadi."

Regarding reports that he intended to move from Iran to Damascus, al-Hakim denied this in his reply to this question and said: "These reports are absolutely untrue and have been propagated by some political circles for specific purposes."

He confirmed he was still living in Iran and said "we and our offices are still in Iran and our activities are continuing without any change and I will continue to remain in Iran."

In reply to a question on the infighting between the two Kurdish parties, namely the Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, al-Hakim said he regretted this infighting and that "this is regrettable and very harmful to the Kurdish people in particular and the Iraqi opposition in general."

Regarding reports about the existence of contacts between the two Kurdish parties and the Iraqi regime, al-Hakim said: "We do not have any knowledge of these contacts between the two parties and the Iraqi regime, especially as both parties deny the existence of such contacts."

However, he added "there are attempts by the Iraqi regime to establish such contacts and there are also pressures from Turkey to bring about this contact." [sentence as received]. He further said that "Turkey is going through a state of high anxiety because of its domestic situation and it feels that a politically stable situation for the Kurds in the region will have an impact on its domestic situation."

Iraqi Opposition Cites Khaddam's Assistance Offer

JN2607184795 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has said his country is ready to assist the Iraqi people and their leaders who oppose the despot's rule achieve their salvation and end the tribulation Iraq and its people experience.

This came at a recent meeting between Khaddam and Iraqi opposition figures in Damascus. Khaddam emphasized the importance of their unity under these critical circumstances, and the need for them to have one word and a mature field plan to quickly terminate the despotic regime and have Iraq resume its Islamic and Arab role against all the suspect colonialist schemes which seek to harm our Islamic region.

Khaddam said that the despot should not be given any opportunity, all forms of fighting in the northern part of the homeland should be ended, and secondary differences shroud be discarded at this stage. He urged the parties to the conflict to resort to reason and to their conscience and to stop destroying the northern part of Iraq and its people who had suffered much from the despotism of the tyrant and his regime.

Government Officials Meet UK Parliamentarians

JN2607161995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, received a delegation of the British House of Commons led by (Cyril Townsend), head of the Middle East Council in the Conservative Party, at noon today. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with aspects of bilateral relations and the means of promoting them, particularly in the parliamentary domain. Qaddurah talked about the deep-rooted Syrian democratic experiment and the role of the People's Assembly of embodying democracy through representing all segments of people and carrying out their legislative and supervisory role.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received the British parliamentary delegation representing the Conservative Party, the Labor Party, and the Liberal Democrats Party, led by (Cyril Townsend), at noon today. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister highlighted Syria's position vis-a-vis the peace process developments. He also answered their questions in this regard. Talks also dealt with relations between Syria and Britain.

(Cyril Townsend) praised Syria's pivotal role in the peace process and in upgrading relations with the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Afghanistan

Jihad Council Assails UN Envoy's Dostam Meeting

LD2507134395 Tehran IRNA in English
1156 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 25, IRNA — The Jihad Council of northern Afghanistan, composed of pro-government officials, here on Monday [24 July] condemned the recent trip to Mazar-e Sharif by U.N. Special Envoy Mahmoud Mestiri to meet General Dostam and said it will hinder peace process.

A communique issued by the council read: "Leader of the Islamic National Movement, Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam under foreign instigations, staged war in northern Afghanistan." It added that unless foreign intervention is stopped, the civil war in the country will continue.

Arming the opposition forces in the north, emergence of the Taleban group and efforts to introduce Mohammad Zaher Shah as leader of Afghanistan, are all part of an international conspiracy against the Afghan people, the communique added.

The council said that foreign intervention, refusal to call a general elections, disrespect for wish of the people, giving credibility to unpopular personalities and supporting certain groups are the main factors contributing to failure of Mestiri's three rounds of negotiation. Referring to the existing calm in Kabul and the flood of refugees to the city due to confidence in the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, the council urged Mestiri to take notice of these facts in his peace mission.

The communique also criticized foreign reporters stationed in Afghanistan and urged them to report the protests and miseries of the recent refugees and all Afghans.

Presidential Spokesman on UN Envoy's Efforts

LD2707095395 Tehran IRNA in English
0852 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 27, IRNA — Afghan Presidential Spokesman Abdulaziz Murad [name as received] announced here Wednesday [26 July] that no decisive and certain consequences can be imagined for the current round of efforts made by the United Nations special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri.

He told IRNA correspondent here that Mestiri is trying to hear viewpoints of leaders of various groups as well as Afghan officials and sumbit them to the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to provide new peace plan for that country.

In his numerous meetings with different Afghan officials including president Borhanoddin Rabbani, Mestiri has discussed the peace plan approved by the Afghan Government, Murad added.

He reiterated that serious measures are to be taken to cut off hands of interventionist foreign powers and holding discussion in Afghanistan and nowhere else were among major topics discussed by Mestiri and Afghan authorities.

Murad stressed that if Mestiri does not consider the realities of the Afghan society as well as the political and military structure of the country as serious, and would not find any effective way to cut off the hands of foreign states, his efforts to establish peace and security in Afghanistan would not bear fruit.

Commenting on consequences of discussions held between Afghan officials and the delegation from organization of [the] Islamic Conference (OIC), the Afghan diplomat noted that the OIC considers Mestiri as forerunner in solving Afghan problems, therefore, the organization only coordinates with the U.N. and efforts made by that interntional body.

Hezb-e Eslami's Head Views 'Foreign Interference'

LD2607192895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Calmness has returned to Kabul to a considerable degree. This was stated by Mohammad Yunes Khales, leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, in an interview with an IRNA correspondent in Kabul.

He said Hezb-e Eslami does not have any specific problem with the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Concerning the situation in the country and the recent developments in Afghanistan, he said: Dostam is enjoying the backing of foreigners and in our opinion the Taleban group has been provoked and it is possible that their activities have been influenced by the foreign factors.

The leader of Hezb-e Eslami added that foreign interference is the obstacle in the path of reconciliation among the various groups. Whenever the ground is prepared for reconciliation, interference takes place and fighting begins. He added that the Afghans must establish peace in their country and rebuild their homeland.

Continued Government-Taleban Fighting Reported

LD2507175795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of
Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban and the Kabul administration have resumed fighting in Logar Province. Both sides blame each other for starting the fighting. Reports from the province say that the Kabul administration forces twice attacked the Taleban positions last Friday [21 July] but failed. In the course of the clashes, dozens from both sides were either killed or injured. The report says that sporadic clashes in Mohammad Agha district still continue between the forces of the two sides, but no group has succeeded in making any advance.

Radio Reports on Dostam Militia Assault 'Defeat'

LD2507174595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An assault by the Dostam militia in t[illegible]ections of Salang and Khenjan faced a definite defeat and the Dostam militia suffered heavy loss of life and material. A source of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to BAKHTAR that the Dostam militia, who over the past days have several times mounted assaults against the Islamic state forces in pursuit of their fruitless attacks, last night launched a broad attack from three directions against the positions of the Islamic army forces. The attack was defeated as a result of the brave resistance of the mojahedin and the Islamic army forces.

As a result, the enemy's two tanks were destroyed and two others set ablaze at the beginning of the assault. As an upshot of the counteroffensive of the Islamic army forces, the soldiers of Islam advanced two kms from Pol-e Tashnagan to the other side of Pol-e Malkhan, and as a result of the bravery of the sons of Islam, the militia, who consist of Sufi Painda men, the Kayani militia, and the Dostam militia, 174 militia were killed and 214 others injured, and 25 others were taken prisoner by the Islamic army.

The defeated militia mounted another assault at 1300 and continued until 1500. Once again by the grace of God and the valor of the mojahedin, the militia were defeated. At about 1600, the militia mounted another attack, which was repulsed by 1700. After suffering heavy loss of life, 34 of the enemy were taken prisoner and from the militia 25 Kalashnikovs, five pieces of PK [machine guns], four rockets, one radio communications set, and one piece of mortar have been seized.

According to the most recent report, the Dostam militia launched yet another attack from the right side of the road at 1800 this evening. They face the resistance of the forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. As a result, 15 people people were taken prisoner and five others killed. A PK and a radio communications set as well as three positions of the enemy were captured by the Islamic State of Afghanistan forces and the mojahedin.

According to another report, a Dostam militia assault faced a definite defeat in the areas of Jarkhan and Negala in Kohestanant, Jowzjan Province. In the course of the clashes, three of the enemy were killed and four others injured. Several fortifications of the militia have also been captured by the mojahedin and a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition have been seized.

The defeat of the Dostam militia and the great victory of the Islamic army have revealed the peace-seeking position of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the real sons of the nation stand by their Islamic state.

Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that mojahed brothers Rostamby, Commander Jalal, Commander Mirza, Abdol Ghafur, Commander Nurollah, Commander Taj Mohammad, and Commander Juma from Jawand District in Fariab Province declared in a meeting with the leadership of the 839th Brigade their readiness to dispel the so-called Junbesh of Dostam. The commander vowed to support the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the last breath. According to another report, Commander Nasroddin, Commander Sayed Mohammad, Commander Safar, Mulla Sayd Shah, and commanders from Bahayi tribe and their armed men defected to the 839th Brigade.

SCC Forces Claim Victory in Northern Province

LD2607214695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The mopping-up operations by the forces of the Supreme Coordination Council [SCC] are still continuing in northern Salang. In a telephone contact from Khenjan, an official of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan reports that in the course of mopping-up operations carried out last night, the forces of the SCC captured a number of important positions of the warmongering forces of the Kabul administration and eliminated 12 of them.

The report adds that as a result of two successful operations, a ZK-1, various types of light and heavy weapons, and a quantity of logistic material were seized as booty by the forces of the SCC. The report adds that intense mopping-up operations continue and the forces of the Shura-e Nezar [Supervisory Council, led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, former defense minister] have completely lost their fighting morale.

India

Committee Welcomes Improvement in U.S. Ties

BK2507164195 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Jul 95

["Press Release Dated July 25, 1995" — ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Indo-U.S. relations:

The Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs met on July 25, 1995 and discussed a wide range of issues on Indo-U. S. relations. The meeting was chaired by external affairs minister [EAM], who provided a broad overview in his opening statement of the recent expansion and diversification of Indo-U.S. relations, particularly in economic cooperation, as well as the continuing divergences of approach in a number of areas such as nuclear and missile non-proliferation, Jammu and Kashmir, international terrorism, etc.

2. Members of the committee welcomed the recent improvement in Indo-U.S. relations, particularly the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and investment. However, there was a widespread feeling that the impact of U.S. policies in a number of areas needed careful assessment.

3. Members expressed great concern at the proposed U.S. transfer of advanced offensive military equipment such as P-3C Orion Aircraft, Harpoon missiles, etc., to Pakistan through relaxation of the Pressler Amendment. It was felt that such transfers had a direct and adverse impact on Indian security. It was also felt that India's indigenous programmes for development of Agni and Prithvi [missiles] should not be held up by statements made by U.S. officials. Members expressed the view that U.S. authorities must acknowledge direct Pakistani involvement promoting terrorism in India for which there was incontrovertible evidence.

4. External affairs minister gave a preliminary response to some of the members, queries particularly on economic issues and undertook to respond more fully after the further discussions on the subject to be undertaken at the next meeting of the consultative committee. EAM categorically assured members that there would be no compromise on matters affecting India's basic policies and its national security. At the same time, he emphasised the importance attached by the government of India to the perceptible and qualitative change that had been brought about in Indo-U.S. relations through the efforts of both sides, and expressed confidence that this trend would continue.

Press Release Previews Rao's Malaysia Visit

BK2507162095 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Jul 95

["Press Release Dated July 25, 1995" — ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Visit of prime minister to Malaysia (August 2-5, 1995):

At the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao will pay a four-day official visit to Malaysia from August 2-5, 1995. The visit follows Prime Minister Mahathir's visit to India in December 1993 when a G-15 related visit was transformed into a bilateral one. The prime minister will be accompanied by Shri Jagdish Tytler, minister of state for surface transport, Shri R.L. Bhatia, minister of state for external affairs, and Shri Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, minister of state in the prime minister's office. He will also take with him a business delegation comprising leaders of Indian industry, many of whom already have business interests in Malaysia. The visit will be fourth by an Indian prime minister, the earlier visits being those of Pandit Nehru (1954), Smt [Mrs.] Indira Gandhi (1968) and Shri V. P. Singh (1990).

2. Our relations with Malaysia have traditionally been close and cordial. Our cooperation in different areas has grown and diversified over the years. There is evidently considerable scope for expansion. We attach importance to realising this potential and further developing our cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis.

3. The prime minister's visit is taking place in the context of our quest for closer links with the fast growth economies of neighbouring Southeast Asia. Other countries of the region earlier visited by the prime minister include Indonesia (NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit, 1992), Thailand (1993), Vietnam (1994) and Singapore (1994). Ever since we started focussing special attention on (?ASEAN), there have been several exchanges of high-level visits including those of economic nature. In this context, we attach particular importance to Malaysia with a steady growth rate of over 8 per cent for the last decade. Malaysia has become a major player in the region.

4. The visit of the prime minister is an important part of the continuing political dialogue to further develop our mutual understanding on regional and global issues. The visit is also significant in the context of India's relations with Southeast Asia (including ASEAN) which have grown substantially over the last few years.

5. The visit should also give a much-needed impetus to economic cooperation between the two countries. The second largest number of Indian joint ventures abroad

(42) are located in Malaysia. Indian companies such as BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited], IRCON [Indian Railway Construction Company], HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] and Larsen and Toubro (L and T), EIL [Engineers Indian Limited] have successfully undertaken infrastructural projects in Malaysia in power generation, railways and in the construction of bridges and other infrastructure projects. There has also been a substantial increase in Malaysian investments in India. From the figure of Rs. [rupees] 19 million for 16 projects during the period 1982-90, Government of India has approved Malaysian investment to the tune of Rs. 1100 million in 15 projects during the period January 1991 to December 1994. These projects are in the areas of telecommunication equipment, rubber products, software production, electrical apparatus, shrimp cultivation, food processing, industrial machinery etc. Some of the Malaysian groups which are involved are Renong, Hicom, Telkom Malaysia, Petronas, Binariang etc. Our policy of economic liberalisation has provided new opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries. The range and depth of the business links between Malaysia and India thus make it the prime candidate for dynamic economic partnership with India.

Daily Views PRC Missile Test, U.S. Policies

BK2707063095 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jul 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Aiming a Missile"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese have notified that they will be conducting missile tests just north of Taiwan. China has carried out hundreds of missile tests both on land and over water, the latest being the over-ocean solid fuelled mobile inter-continental ballistic missile tests (ICBM), which were meant as a deterrent against the United States. The Chinese arsenal today has the entire range of missiles from short range battlefield missiles and ICBMs to submarine-launched nuclear ballistic missiles and antishipping missiles like the silkworm. The new missile tests to be conducted close to Taiwan have a message to convey to Taiwan, the US the East Asian countries and the world.

Its impact on Taiwan was immediate with the Taipei stockmarket failing by more than six per cent in two days. It is quite obvious that the timing of the tests was intended to demonstrate China's annoyance towards Taiwan and the US in the light of the visit of the Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui to the US and Taiwan's increasing attempts to gain recognition as an independent entity. It is also perhaps a signal to the US at a time when their relations with Japan are somewhat strained that the US cannot afford to alienate both Japan and China. It may also be an implicit warning to the Southeast Asian nations that they cannot rely on the US for their security as China intends to be the dominant strategic power in East Asia. Lastly, the US is perhaps being told that it cannot interfere in China's internal affairs.

China's military power is being modernised rapidly and it is emerging as the foremost power in Asia. The short-sighted American policies of putting pressure on Japan over trade, not helping Russian economic recovery adequately and arm twisting India over its nuclear and missile programmes are creating obstacles for a natural balance of power to emerge in Asia, opening the way for China to become the hegemon of Asia. This is not the first occasion the US is committing a major error of judgement in respect of China. Between 1945-48 the US poured arms into China to support the Kuomintang forces but these ended up in the hands of the Communists. Between 1970-1990 the US supported China militarily and economically to counter the Soviet Union which was already declining. The result of that is the power of China of today. Some American strategists are of the view that when the Chinese power asserts itself only India, Russia, Vietnam and Indonesia will stand up to it and not other East Asian countries. The Americans did not understand that Vietnam was a dyke against the expansion of Chinese influence into South East and engaged it in a ruinous war. The present US policy of equating India and Pakistan and applying pressure on the Indian missile programme only highlight that the American administration has not learnt from history.

Commentary Reviews Chavan Visit to PRC

BK2407140895 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Commentary on Saroj Mohanti]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Home Minister Mr. S.B. Chavan's just concluded week-long visit to Beijing and Shanghai was in keeping with India's good neighborhood policy and was another step by the Narasimha Rao government to improve and expand relations with China into new areas. Both India and China are in the midst of market reform programs and they realize the importance of maintaining peace on their border and good relations with neighbors as necessary conditions to pursue their economic policies. It is in this context that Mr. Chavan's visit assumes significance.

India and China have evinced interest in learning from each other's experience in combating financial crimes in wake of the liberalization of their economies. During Mr. Chavan's visit, the two countries discussed a draft memorandum of understanding on bilateral cooperation in combating fiscal offenses — money laundering, narcotics and other crimes across the border — endangering the country. Mr. Chavan had detailed discussions on these subjects with the Chinese minister for public security, Mr. Tao Siju, and the minister for supervision, Mr. Cao Qingze. The home minister also went to Shenzhen and Guangzhou. He held a series of meetings with Shanghai leadership and visited the export processing zone in Pudong where 270 foreign joint ventures are located.

Mr. Chavan also briefed the Chinese leadership about how the weapons acquired by the Afghan mujahidin were now being diverted to India, especially to Kashmir. A significant result of Mr. Chavan's visit was agreement reached by the two sides to step up cooperation between the border forces of the two countries. In retrospect, Mr. Chavan's visit kept the momentum of high-level contacts between the two countries whose relations have been improving steadily in diverse fields ever since the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made a landmark visit to Beijing in 1988. The high-level political dialogue and regular consultations ever since have helped expand cooperation into new areas and create a favorable climate in which the two countries can work to sort outstanding issues.

The understanding developed by the two sides on each other's problems and demands have created a situation where the Sino-Indian border remains peaceful today. The India-China Joint Working Group will meet in New Delhi next month to continue the discussions aimed at arriving at a mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question and on implementing the border peace and tranquility agreement signed during Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to China in 1993.

The two countries have also succeeded in their efforts to enhance economic content of their relations and agreed to open more border points to boost border trade. There is a vast potential for bilateral trade, given the size and strength of the Indian and Chinese economies. Various agreements signed between the two sides are likely to facilitate the growth of trade and economic links. India and China also have made efforts to expand cooperation into new sectors like coal, petroleum, medicine, civil aviation, banking and labor laws. Indian companies are setting up three joint ventures in the pharmaceuticals, automobile and refractories sector. A festival of India, the first ever festival by a foreign country, was held last year.

The two countries also share similar perceptions on many international issues such as human rights and new trade conditionalities. Both sides stressed the relevance of Pancasila — the five principles of peaceful coexistence in the post-Cold War era. When Mr. Chavan called on him, the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, said China expected new progress in its relations with India on the basis of Pancasila.

Draft Agreement on Crime Issues Passed to PRC

BK2507051295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has handed over a draft agreement to China for cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

The home minister who presented the draft during his recent visit to China, told newsmen in New Delhi today that such an agreement will provide an apparatus for periodical discussions at the functional level between the two countries. The draft agreement will be signed after it is considered and approved by China.

During the visit, Mr. Chavan held discussions with Chinese Premier Mr. Li Peng. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and identified issues of common interest in the context of liberalization policy being pursued by the two countries.

Army Said Disagreeing With Official Kashmir Policy

BK2507131695 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 19 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pravin Sawhney]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, July 18 — The Army does not share the government's enthusiasm for holding early elections in Kashmir.

Senior Army commanders feel that a proposed political and economic package for Kashmir should only be made after the parliamentary elections, as the state government must be convinced that Delhi can deliver what it promises. Unless this is done, state elections will have a marginal or no effect on the situation. There is, in fact, a possibility of a sharp deterioration in the situation in Kashmir, if the new government in Delhi in 1996 is unable to honour the commitments made now. "Militancy will peak if Kashmiris feel that Delhi has let them down once again," remarked a senior officer.

According to the Army, the Centre should use the time till the elections to improve of the ground situation in Kashmir: the spread of insurgency into Jammu division must be stopped to restrict insurgency within the land-locked Valley; adequate attention should be given to propaganda-war as it is responsible for the larger-than-life image of foreign mercenaries; the defunct state administration should be resurrected nexus between local politicians, media persons and militants should be broken and a balance between combating insurgency and development work be struck.

The Army and the government seem to have different agendas on Kashmir: Delhi, for political reasons, is keen to hold early elections in the state. The Army, which is virtually running the administration in the rural areas, besides combating insurgency and guarding the line of control, is showing signs of despair. The most alarming indication of the sagging morale of soldiers in Kashmir is that middle and junior level officers are losing respect for their seniors. The seniors, in turn, have little interaction with the state government. According to officials, the GOC [General Officer Commanding] 15 Corps in Srinagar does not attend meetings of the Unified Command (meant for close interaction and coordination between the Army, BSF [Border Security Force], CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the state police). After the Charar Sharif incident, the Army commander at Udhampur is not consulted by the governor and the Army chief in Delhi has fallen from grace with the Prime Minister's Office after he publicly said there is an undeclared war by Pakistan in Kashmir.

"While the Army's opinion does not matter in political calculations, the government should not be oblivious of the fact that the Army alone is keeping Kashmir with India," observed a general from the military operations branch. The Army has suggested a two-pronged action to counter the propaganda war unleashed by the insurgents and to ensure that terrorism does not spread to the sensitive Jammu division.

Hopes of coordinated psychological operations within the state and with the Centre have been dashed by the recent statement made by the home minister, Mr S.B.Chavan, that while Pakistan is spending on propaganda in Kashmir, Delhi is content with focussing on the development of the state. "The two issues are not linked. A meaningful development and political process can commence only after insurgency is brought under control," observed a Brigadier, who has been in Kashmir for the last two years.

In the Army's assessment, Pakistan realised the importance of the Jammu division in January 1992, after studying the profile of the crowd which accompanied BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] President Murli Manohar Joshi's rath yatra [chariot journey] to Srinagar. There was a large crowd of-all communities in Jammu, which thinned down in Udhampur and only a handful went to Srinagar. The Jammu division, with a mixed Hindu-Muslim population and a lot of open space, provides the ideal ground for fanning insurgency. Towards the western front facing Pakistan, it has a mix of the line of control and the de jure border, the latter between Munnawar Tawi and Madhopur headworks.

The forces have to exercise utmost restrain in this sector because the international border is close and Pakistan is quick to resort to provocation with its artillery fire. The other problem is that no effective checks can be imposed on the national highway (NH- lA) between Pathankot and Srinagar, and its offshoot NH-IB, the road serving the Chenab dam project, as it will mean stopping heavy traffic on these roads. The insurgents use this loophole to smuggle arms and ammunition into the Valley. The Army has long been telling the government to give more attention to Jammu as it is not possible for it to deploy additional troops there, but its voice is not being heard.

Official Says Kidnappings Unrelated to 'Struggle'

BK2607135695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have launched a massive operation to crush the popular uprising against foreign occupation. They laid siege around the 15-mile belt of Barang-Kukanag area of Islamabad-Anantnag. A large number of innocent people were arrested by the forces who were subjected to severe torture in interrogation cells. About two dozen people were grievously injured due to torture. In Mawar-Hindwara, the Indian forces killed two persons in custody. Another person was killed in Kupwara. In Jumagund, the forces killed two persons firing at close. An innocent resident of Sopor, arrested by the forces some time ago, was killed in custody. An unidentified dead body was found in Khambrial. In Islamabad, the forces killed another innocent person. As a protest against the reign of terror let loose by the Indian forces, a 10-day general strike is being observed in Islamabad district. The life has come to a standstill as even the transport is off the road. Severe clashes have taken place between the mujahideen and the Indian forces. In Acchabal in Islamabad district, three Indian soldiers were killed and many injured when the mujahideen ambushed a military patrol. The mujahideen also attacked a military vehicle in Pulwama and inflicted heavy casualties on the Indian forces. A clash also took place in Doda area. The mujahideen claimed having killed an officer and four soldiers of the Indian Army. One mujahid was also martyred in the clash. The Indian forces reportedly suffered heavy casualties in mine explosions. In Pampur, a military vehicle was destroyed by a mine laid by mujahideen, resulting in the death of two soldiers.

Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference [APHC], Mirwaiz Maulvi Mohammad Omar Farooq, has said the recent hostage taking of foreign tourists in the held valley has nothing to do with the ongoing struggle of Kashmiri [people's] rights launched by the APHC.

[Begin Farooq recording] The Hurriyat Conference from the very beginning is of the view that the hostages should get released, without any harm, without any delay. But the problem is that we do not have any contact with the concerned people, because as I said that the group is new. Their ideology, their thinking, the people behind it are not known. [end recording]

Police Suspect Pakistani Hand in Bomb Blast

BK2607152295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one person was killed and over 30 were injured in a powerful bomb explosion at Shalimar Road in Jammu city this morning. The condition of three other injured persons continues to be serious. The injured have been admitted to the local government medical college hospital. According to the IG [inspector general] police, Mr. Rajan Bakhshi, the bomb was placed in a scooter parked in front of the Central Bank of India. The police suspect the hand of Pakistan's ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] behind the explosion. This was a second major explosion in the interior of Jammu city within a week. Earlier on 20 July, a powerful blast in Purani Mandi area of the city claimed 17 lives and injured 100 others. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has expressed grief over the loss of lives and sympathized with the injured. In a message, the governor appealed to the people to remain vigilant against the nefarious designs of the militants and other forces attempting to disrupt peace in Jammu.

Various political parties have condemned the bomb blast. The Congress-I described it as an act of cowardice on the part of Pakistani agents. A party spokesperson in New Delhi today appealed to the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] administration to provide immediate relief to the victims. The CPI [Communist Party of India] said the ISI-trained militants are now trying to spread the proxy war into the Jammu region. The party leader, Mr. Farooqi, observed that by such acts militants now want to create communal division among the people in the state. The Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party has also condemned the blast.

Adviser Urges Self-Reliance in Missile Technology

BK2507113995 Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 17 Jul 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyderabad, July 16 — The country should not succumb to the pressures being exerted by the developed countries and regress in its mission to achieve self-reliance in critical areas of missile technology, said the Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, here on Sunday [16 July].

Speaking at the silver jubilee celebrations of Bharat Dynamics Limited [BDL], Dr Kalam averred: "Developed countries preach homilies asking us not to do this (develop missiles), but we should. We should not be afraid of anyone. We should do what we want to do."

In a speech which lasted barely 10 minutes, Dr Kalam underscored the need for the BDL to focus on upgrading technology and unearthing new technologies vital to national security.

"It is here that the crucial mission of fabricating, integrating and despatching the Prithvi missile to Chandipur for test-launching was done," he recalled, commending the efforts of BDL. Stating that the Prithvi missile was test-launched successfully by the army on June 4 and again on June 6, 1994, he said the missile had reached the target in the Bay of Bengal and had performed well.

The Secretary, Production and Supplies, Union Defence Ministry, Mr V K Kapoor, stressed the need for radical and constant upgradation of technology to strengthen the country's defence preparedness.

"You cannot afford to remain in a static and complacent state and settle down to the status of a fabricator alone," he maintained. He observed that if the spirit of innovation was strengthened and sharpened and innovative technologies were developed, they would pay rich dividends in the future.

Technology upgradation had assumed greater significance for a strong and secure future of the country in the wake of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the attitude of the West as far as technology transfer was concerned, he pointed out.

Stating that BDL figured prominently in the country's programme to attain self-reliance in the field of missile technology, he stipulated it had to be effective in ensuring the defence preparedness of the country. "It has to be efficient and yet unobtrusive." he added.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Chairman of BDL, Cmde [Commodore] S Rao, stated that the company had made a modest beginning in 1970 with the production of the first generation anti- tank guided missile SS 11 B1 from three different locations in Sanathnagar, Masab Tank and DRDL [Defense Research and Development Laboratory] barracks from where the core team of BDL was drawn.

He pointed out that a significant decision was to develop missiles indigenously under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

Later, Mr Kapoor laid the foundation stone for a Design Engineering and Electronics Centre in the BDL campus. Earlier, five former chief executives of BDL — Air Vice Marshal V S Narayanan, Brig [Brigadier] J P Anthony, Wg Cdr [Wing Commander] V M Chitale, Mr Z P Marshall, Air Cmde R Gopalaswamy were felicitated.

'Breakthrough' Achieved in Space Technology

BK2507113795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indian space scientists have achieved a breakthrough in the prelaunch preparations of the indigenously built Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle — GSLV — with the test firing of the liquid engine for use in the strap-on stage of the GSLV. An ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] press release issued in Bangalore today said the 202d test was carried out at the test facility at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. The aim was to check the functioning of the indigenously developed silica-phenolic throat of the nozzle. The preliminary analysis shows satisfactory functioning of all the systems. The silica-phenolic throat has been developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Center at Thiruvananthapuram.

Official Discusses 'Milestone'

BK2507164095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The space scientists have achieved a major milestone with the successful ground firing of the liquid fuel engine to be used in thrust stage of GSLV [Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle] to be launched in 1997. The test was carried out in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. The engine was developed at the liquid propulsion system center at Thiruvananthapuram. The director of the center, Dr. G. Madhavan Nair, told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that it is for the first time that 60-ton capacity engine was test fired for a duration of 200 seconds. The main objective of the test was to qualify the indigenously developed silica-phenolic throat of the engine nozzle.

Commentary Hails Success

BK2607045395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Commentary by S.K. Seshachandrika]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As India is making an upright and steady progress in achieving self-reliance in the satellite launch vehicle technology, which is a most important requisite in application of the space segment for the welfare of mankind, reports have come from the Indian Space Research Organization about a major success in the indigenously developed liquid engine to be incorporated in the assembly of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV [as received]. The eagerly awaited GSLV will be made operational by the end of the century.

While developing the GSLV, Indian space scientists are taking into account the increasing demand of the space applications in the coming decades. Special emphasis, therefore, is being given by the space scientists for optimal utilization of PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] heritage in order to reduce the cost, improve the time schedule and increase the operational reliability. In this direction, the experiment by the scientists of the Liquid Propulsion System Center of Thiruvananthapuram at Mahendra Giri in Tamil Nadu on Monday [24 July] is an important technology development.

The successful test refers to the firing of 40-ton first-stage strap-on liquid propellant engine of GSLV. The unique feature of the test was employing a nozzle incorporating silica-phenolic throat — indigenously developed. This throat withstands the temperature of the orders of 1300 degree centigrade when the engine is firing during the crucial stage of launching operation. This is a milestone in the development of GSLV which otherwise uses most of the flight components which have been proved in the flight of the PSLV in 1994.

Dr. G. Madhavan Nair of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center has said that the preliminary analysis of the day before yesterday's experiment shows satisfactory function of all subsystems. The cryogenic stage is the new element in GSLV and as per the Department of Space, the progress in respect of development of indigenous cryogenic engine is also progressing well. In the meantime, steady progress is also maintained in the satellite application area.

The INSAT-2C and IRS-1C satellites are almost in the final stages of assemblies and ready for transshipment. These satellites are slated for operationalization in September or October. The preparation for the next flight of PSLV-D3 is nearing completion. The next three to four months are going to be an eventful and challenging period for the Indian space scientists.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on U.S. Embargo

Speech Addresses Embargo 'Plot'

LD2607220895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This evening, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani took part in a mourning ceremony held by the lovers of Tharallah [God's blood — reference to the third Shi'i imam's martyrdom] on the occasion of the anniversary of the heart-rending demise of the honorable messenger of Islam and the martyrdom of Imam Hasan Mujtaba, as well as the martyrdom of Imam Rida at the Tharallah mosque at the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] central headquarters in Tehran. [passage omitted]

At the ceremony, the president addressed a large group of self-sacrificing IRGC forces and various strata of people. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Islamic revolution as a ray of light which started from the bright era of Prophet Muhammad's household. He referred to the extensive and tyrannical pressures waged by world arrogance, the most wicked systems and the world's political and military powers, and said: If we see that despite all this pressure, plotting, and mischief, this revolution is still continuing its sacred path powerfully, firmly, and steadfastly, and if we see that it is strongly and bravely resisting any kind of action designed by this divine system's enemies to bring it to its knees, this is because of the same innocent presence, and at the same time the brave and powerful presence, of the innocent imams during their blessed lifetime.

The president described the shameful defeat of the United States in all arenas, particularly in its economic embargo plot, as a derisory move by the United States. He stressed: This time too, the United States, as in the past, took the first step toward imposing an economic embargo against Iran which bore no fruit, but defeat and shame for it.

The president emphasized that the White House has become enslaved to a reactive and sensational state of mind which resembles an attack mode; but in fact, it is an act of defeat and retreat.

Says Embargo 'Strengthened' Economy

LD2707094195 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] July 27, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Thursday [27 July] the U.S. trade embargo on Iran was not only ineffective, on the contrary, it further strengthened Iranian economy.

Speaking in a mourning ceremony here on the occasion of the death anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Imam Hasan (AS), the second imam of Prophet Mohammad household, he said the U.S. president had meditated the trade embargo to subject Iranian economy to crisis, but the appropriate measures taken by the government improved the unstable foreign exchange situation.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said simultaneous with declaring the arms embargo on Iran, the Americans launched large-scale propaganda against Iran through radios of Israel, America (VOA) and BBC, nevertheless, the government took appropriate measures and created a healthy atmosphere for state economy.

He said though the government has banned export of steel, copper and chemicals, Iran enjoyed economic growth in the first quarter of the current calendar year.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the United States had meditated trade embargo to reduce one fourth of Iranian oil revenues because it was buying one fourth of Iranian oil exports, but on the contrary, reports speak of an increase in Iranian export capability.

Touching on Iranian plans to develop offshore oilfields, he said the U.S. company of Conoco withdrew its bid to carry out the oilfield development project, but within two months, Iran replaced it with French company of Total so that a blow was dealt to the U.S., he said.

He said Iran's ability to deal with the difficulties is rooted in presence of the people at the scene and the jihad of the Armed Forces who spare no time to sacrifice their lives for the cause of Islam.

Says Economy 'Not Affected' by Embargo

NC2707063495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Referring to the extensive pressures and the big plots by world arrogance, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The valuable experience gained in the years since the victory of the Islamic Revolution has proven that no matter how hard the enemy tries to defeat the revolution, the front of the Islamic system rises to confront and resist it even more powerfully.

[Unidentified correspondent] Referring to the recent move by the U.S. Government to impose economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran and to all the hue and cry and extensive propaganda attending the issue, the president said that the futility of this move was yet another disgraceful defeat for the United States. He added: Despite the uninformed and turncoats who have joined with the enemy and tried to help them with discouraging words and writings, these sanctions not only have not affected our country's economy, but they have even facilitated life and decision-making for the nation and its officials and—with the implementation of a program and with principled measures—paved the way for a calm and stable atmosphere for the economy of the Islamic country.

Pointing out that the reactionary and sensational mood that has enslaved the White House seems to be aggressive, but in fact it shows a state of defeat and retreat.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The U.S. Government thinks that if we do not initiate a struggle against them, it is a sign of our weakness. But we have repeatedly said that Iran is not adventurist and does not want to create tension. It is the United States who from the start has confronted this divine and popular rule with hostility and violence. It was the U.S. Government that severed relations with Iran during the era of the late imam, at which time the imam had stated: We are happy over this severance of relations. Today too, the esteemed leader is powerfully following this same stand.

In conclusion, the president expressed hopes that the Islamic Revolution will continue its divine path with the same power and vigor that characterized the jihad, struggles, and martyrdom of the innocent imams—peace be upon them—and thanks to this nation, which is devoted to the religious leader.

Official Confers With Uzbek Foreign Minister

*LD2507205995 Tehran IRNA in English
2039 GMT 25 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — On the eve of the formation of a joint Irano-Uzbek economic commission, the visiting Uzbek foreign minister, Abdulaziz Kamilov, conferred with the Iranian commerce minister, Yahya ol-Eshaq here Tuesday [25 July] to study ways and means of promoting trade relations.

According to a report released by the public relations department of the ministry, the Iranian minister stated that all efforts must be concentrated on creating a framework at the joint economic conmmission for the expansion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has multitudes of possibilities in the areas of air, sea and land transportations, therefore it can serve Uzbekistan as a link to join that country with other parts of the world. He stressed that the silkroad must be revived.

The Uzbek foreign minister pointed to the potentialities which exist in the two countries and said they could be exploited to the benefit of the two countries.

At the end of the meeting Kamilov invited the Iranian trade minister to attend the joint economic commission meet to be held in Tashkent.

Qatari Foreign Minister Pays One-Day Visit

Delivers Message for Rafsanjani

*LD2607101795 Tehran IRNA in English
0956 GMT 26 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani arrived here Wednesday [26 July] for one day official visit and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon arrival at Mehrabad Airport, he said that his trip is aimed at discussing with Iranian officials bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international developments particularly the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Shaykh Jasim is carrying a message from Qatar's Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin—Hamad Al Thani for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Commenting on prospects of bilateral relations, he said that his county is willing to promote mutual cooperation in all fields, adding that efforts were under way to this end.

Referring to Qatar's stance towards critical situation in the Muslim-populated Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he stressed that U.N. regulations on Bosnia, particularly the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims depriving them of the right to defend themselves, were cruel regulations. He voiced his country's readiness to help Bosnian nation to defend themselves against the Serb aggressors.

Commenting on the situation in his country following the recent developments, the Qatari foreign minister stated that peace and tranquility had been established in Qatar. He expressed hope that his country would gain further success under the leadership of the new amir.

Referring to Tehran-Doha relations as consolidated and firm, Velayati reiterated that Qatar is a regional country with which Iran has close and friendly ties. Fortunately, he said, mutual cooperation have been upgraded in recent years, adding that bilateral relations could set a good example for other Persian Gulf littoral states.

Qatari foreign minister is to meet President Rafsanjani this afternoon and submit him a message from Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah.

Discusses 'Historical' Ties, Departs

LD2607221195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At this afternoon's meeting between Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani and Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, the two sides stressed the importance of consultation and expansion of the good ties between the two countries.

The Qatari foreign minister described his country's ties with Iran as historical. He expressed the desire of the Qatari authorities for the expansion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields.

Mr. Velayati said he is glad about the calm trend of political developments and the solving of the problems in Qatar. Referring to the deep affection between Iran and Qatar he declared Iran's readiness for the expansion of mutual ties.

The Qatari foreign minister left Tehran this afternoon.

Commentary on 'Arafat's Charges of Aid to Hamas

NC2607200995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has accused Iran of providing aid to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad movement. He has also said it was behind the martyr operation that a Palestinian hero recently carried out. By making these accusations, 'Arafat is trying to gain the favor of the Zionists and Americans, who hate the Islamic Republic of Iran. Further, he aims to cover up the Palestinian people's opposition to his capitulatory bargaining with the enemy.

Following the latest explosion in Tel Aviv, which left a number of Israelis dead, 'Arafat, the chief of the so-called Palestinian self-rule authority, blamed the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his 22 July news conference, 'Arafat said Iranian-backed groups carried out the explosion to derail the peace process; however, he had no evidence of this.

Informed observers note that 'Arafat's claims about the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the struggling Palestinian groups are not new. They said by accusing Iran, the chairman of the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho is seeking to go along with the policies of the White House and Tel Aviv, which are hostile to Tehran. Political analysts believe 'Arafat's flimsy accusations are part of an effort to hide the mounting Palestinian popular rejection of the bargaining plan between the PLO and the hateful Zionist entity. The developments that followed the establishment of the self-rule authority clearly demonstrated that 'Arafat has failed to fulfill the hopes of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as he had promised—the establishment of a Palestinian state and ending the Israeli occupation. This failure caused protests and disturbances to intensify. The Zionist entity still maintains an ironfist policy in the occupied territories. The Palestinian mujahidin has killed at least 161 Zionists since the intifadah began six years ago, since before the signing of the peace treaty.

Thus, the latest explosion and other operations could have been carried out by Palestinians who see that the Zionist enemy's promises are empty and who have bitterly seen how the usurper Zionist forces disdain the Palestinian people. Furthermore, if the present disdain for the noble Palestinian people continues, the bargaining plan, called the peace plan, will burn under the ashes, smoldering and rising.

Nonetheless, 'Arafat's attempts to accuse the struggling Palestinian groups of agentry to Iran are an extension of the policy that the Zionist entity used to pursue against 'Arafat and his comrades in the past.

Bosnian Ambassador Discusses Embargo, 'Inaction'

NC2707123995 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 95 pp 1, 14

["Exclusive" interview with Bosnian Ambassador to Iran Omar Bahman by 'Ali Mehran in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Mehran] What can the world do now about Bosnia?

[Bahman] This question is both very simple and very difficult. With all their might the aggressors attack us, and in return, with all our might, we defend ourselves.

The aggressor, with the help of Britain, France, and Russia, continues its aggression. If the world community had acted according to the first UN resolution, the Bosnian problem would have been solved.

Unfortunately, the West plays with such resolutions, and it has given the Serbs license to continue their aggression.

In the case of the London conference, in appearance the Westerners tried to settle the Bosnian problem, but in fact, the conference had no satisfactory result.

There was a similar conference in London in 1992. In that conference it was delineated that any land conquered by an aggressor would not be recognized by any country, and the Serbs have no right to ethnic cleansing. But there was no action following this resolution.

[Mehran] The world lacks understanding of the root of the conflict in Bosnia. Could you tell us what is the root of the problem?

[Bahman] The basis of these errors is an ideology which has existed for 150 years. According to this ideology, the Serbs must all live in one country, and in this country there is no room for anyone of any other religion, especially Muslims. This philosophy exists on paper; its documents lie in the Serbian Academy. At present, Milosevic has shouldered the implementation of this ideology.

The Europeans do not have positive feelings toward Muslims. Their inaction and tacit help to the Serbs has added to the problem.

[Mehran] It seems unreasonable to have an arms embargo on Bosnia. What is the reason for such an embargo?

[Bahman] The arms embargo was not only on Bosnia; the arms embargo was imposed on Yugoslavia. But in reality, we see that only Bosnians are under pressure. The Serbs are in control of 90 percent of the weapons of the army of the former Yugoslavia, and they receive Russian weapons through Romania. The Croats also receive weapons. Only the Bosnians have difficulty.

According to the UN resolution, all heavy weapons in the hands of the Serbs must be under the supervision of the UN, but in reality this is not the case.

[Mehran] I realize I have asked this before, and I realize the answer is not simple, but what can the world do now to help Bosnia?

[Bahman] The only thing which can save us is the lifting of the arms embargo. But at the UN there are member countries who have the right of veto: the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, and China. They will not allow the lifting of the arms embargo.

We thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts with regard to Bosnia. Foreign Minister Velayati has helped us a great deal. But since the onset of the war, 2,500 Bosnian specialists have gone into exile. We would like the Islamic Republic to attract these specialists and use their knowledge and skill.

[Mehran] What is the likelihood of having the arms embargo lifted?

[Bahman] I think it would be very difficult. Bosnia is under the complete control of the West. Weapons can be delivered via air, land, or water, but the West prevents it. In this respect, Muslim countries must act courageously to counter their actions.

A few Muslim countries cooperate with the Serbs. In Egypt there is still a Serbian embassy; Serb companies operate there. And there exists a Serbian military unit in Egypt. At present in Libya there are a few hundred Serb soldiers who are responsible for the preservation of Russian weapons in Libya. Serb companies are also operating in Libya.

[Mehran] At the London conference it was announced that if the Serbs attack Gorazde, they would face NATO air strikes. Why only Gorazde?

[Bahman] Why are there no NATO attacks while the Serbs take Srebrenica, Bihac, Zepa? Because it's a game. The West simply plays a game with us.

[Mehran] The results of a recent survey in the U.S. indicate that Americans are against the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia and they are against interference in the Bosnian problem. Why do you think this is so?

[Bahman] Because America feels this is a European problem. The U.S. does not want to be in conflict with France and Britain. After Vietnam the U.S. does not want involvement.

Daily Views UK Motives at London Bosnia Meeting

NC2707133295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "What Was Britain Seeking To Achieve at the London Gathering?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The eight-hour London session, with the participation of the defense and foreign ministers of the Contact Group and the Secretary-General of the UN and the EU mediator, came to an end. What was revealed to the public from behind the closed doors was the statement read to the reporters by the British foreign secretary, and also the different evaluations of the session by the participants.

From what the German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said after the session, it follows that there had been a wide chasm between the attitudes taken by the world powers towards the Bosnian issue. He stated that the London conference did not yield a full accord. Examining the other participants' views proves the conclusion reached by the German foreign minister.

Considering the discord among the conference attendants, it is natural for the session to fail to arrive at a clear-cut decision on Bosnia.

The question which now arises is what the British Prime Minister John Major had in mind when he called for the conference to be convened. If he had any new ideas to put forward, why did he not bring them up at the conference? And being aware of the political stands of the attendants well in advance of the session, why did he call a meeting without conducting adequate consultations toward formulating a new solution to the Bosnian crisis?

That is why doubts are raised concerning the true intentions of the British. From what has occurred so far, it seems that a dismal fate has been sealed for the Bosnian Muslims: Within six months from now the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia will be complete.

In fact, Britain has sought to achieve three objectives by calling the meeting: In the first place, following the policy of dragging its feet on the Bosnian issue, Britain aims to buy time for further crimes by the Serbs.

In the second place, Britain tries to absolve itself from involvement in effecting the gloomy fate of the Bosnian Muslims. Removing the former British mediator, David Owen, from the scene of negotiations on Bosnia can also be seen in a new light now. Although it was done under the pretext of resignation or ending of his assignment, it had been intended to conceal the treacherous role of Britain in creating the present predicament for Bosnian Muslims. And, indeed, the London conference was held so that the words of Britain's Jewish foreign secretary would be recorded in world history that Britain has done its best to find a peaceful solution to the Bosnian crisis!

The third objective that the West in general and Britain in particular have tried to attain by holding the gathering was clearly stated by the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic on Friday [21 July]: "The London conference of Western powers effectively gives the breakaway Serbs a green light to continue attacking any place but Gorazde."

Spokesman Views 'Positive' French Stand on Serbs

LD2707060795 Tehran IRNA in English
0202 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — Foreign Ministry's spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi here today assessed as positive the French recent stand against the aggressor Serbs and said that considering the French positive stand, now the way is paved for carrying out consultations.

Recently France announced that it will make an attack on the Serbs' stongholds while some reports indicate that an attack has already been carried out against the Serbs by France.

Mohammadi said that the French stand will have a positive effect on the world public opinions particularly on the Muslims after the long silence of the European countries as well as the negligence of the United Nations.

Expressing deep concern over the fate of the Bosnian defenseless people, Mohammadi reiterated that Iran will welcome all the political and military means which would be able to prevent the crimes and bloodshed in Bosnia.

Assembly of Experts Condemns Serb Aggression

LD2607180395 Tehran IRNA in English
1425 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, July 26, IRNA — The secretariat of the Assembly of Experts here on Wednesday [26 July] condemned the crimes committed by the Serb aggressors against Bosnian Muslims.

In a statement, the assembly called on the government and the Islamic organizations to do their utmost to support the oppressed people in Bosnia.

The statement said Europe and the imperialist U.S. are watching and the Islamic world is witnessing this human plight. unfortunately, there is no sign of a practical step or a voice of complain over this human tragedy.

The Assembly of Experts asked whether the United Nations is virtually incapable of taking any measure or whether there is a conspiracy for genocide of Muslims.

Elsewhere in the statement, the expert assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran criticized inaction of the Islamic states and questioned why they do not mobilize their forces to protect the innocent Bosnians.

The UN-declared safe area of Zepa collapsed on Tuesday and Bihac is also on the verge of fall to Serb aggressors. The Serb forces occupied Srebrenica last week killing or wounding thousands of civilians living in the city designated by the United Nations as safe haven.

Government, Groups Call For Support for Bosnia

Government Calls For 'Immediate Steps'

LD2607223495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1930 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the occupation of Zepa in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serb crimes in Bosnia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued the following statement:

As foreseen, following the fall of Srebrenica, the international community's lack of concern, especially by the United Nations and European powers regarding the

Serb crimes, has led to an upsurge in the Serb onslaught. After the occupation of Srebrenica, the Serbs continued their vicious attack against Zepa and have now also occupied that town.

The bloodshed and painful incidents of recent weeks in Bosnia are the result of the international community's negligence and, especially, the negative 21 July meeting of Western countries in London during which, despite the presence of political and military officials from the powerful countries, the tragic situations in Srebrenica and Zepa were ignored. Instead, they focused their attention solely on possible attacks against Gorazde.

Iran, considering the recent stance of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] Contact Group which regards the Security Council resolution placing an arms embargo on Bosnia as invalid because of its violation of Article 51 of the UN Charter, is calling on international public opinion to show a serious reaction in the face of this human tragedy [preceding word in English] which has offended humanity's conscience.

The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the attacks launched on safe havens in Bosnia and calls on Islamic countries to take immediate steps, in line with the decisions made at the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the OIC Contact Group, to safeguard the existence of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its innocent people, especially the people of Zepa and Bihac, and to strengthen their defenses.

Groups Meet To Coordinate Aid

LD2607130095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1215 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Representatives and officials of Islamic societies, religious committees, and groups of people gathered at al-Javad Mosque in Tehran this morning at the invitation of the Islamic Publicity Organization to organize and coordinate popular efforts in support of the defenseless, innocent people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the gathering, which was attended by the Bosnian ambassador in Tehran and a number of other officials, the audience chanted: Death to Serbs, and Death to America. They condemned the crimes and acts of aggression of the Serbian forces against the defenseless people of Bosnia. They called for the provision of the means for the innocent Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina to arm and defend themselves.

At the meeting Mr. Mohammadi-Eraqi, head of the Islamic Publicity Organization, read out a message from Ayatollah Jannati, the representative of the esteemed leader about sending aid to the people of Bosnia. [passage omitted]

The Bosnian ambassador in our country thanked and praised the people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their help. He said: The events in Bosnia have shown how a small nation can, by relying on its heartfelt faith, Islam, and help of Islamic countries, stand up to big powers.

He pointed out: The aid the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far given us is unprecedented.

Official Declares 'Solidarity' Week

LD2607111795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the representative of the vevali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] for the affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has described the crimes committed by Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a plot hatched by enemies to suppress Islam. To defend the Muslims of Bosnia, he has declared next week Solidarity With the Muslim and Oppressed Nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina Week [Iranian week starts on 29 July]. He noted: The Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently supported the struggles of the people of Bosnia and it will not forgo any assistance to the Muslims of that country.

Ayatollah Jannati described as good Iran's activities in the field of publicity in defense of the people of Bosnia and, referring to the recent developments in that country, he said:

[Begin Jannati recording] In light of the most recent situation, which has become truly unbearable and that has placed Muslims in an extremely dangerous position, we felt it necessary to declare next week — that is, from Saturday [29 July] to Friday, Solidarity with the Muslim and Oppressed Nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina Week. [passage omitted]

We have also made Wednesday the day of rallies and demonstrations. God willing, everyone, Islamic organizations and the general public, will take part and gather, on that day, in front of UN offices or in other suitable venues or in squares and streets, to allow the world to hear their cries of protest. Foreign reporters will, undoubtedly, attend and report these events.

Briefly, these are the things we can do and other things are also being done: Our noble people know about the diplomatic comings and goings. Foreign Minister Velayati is in constant contact with others. The eminent leader, more than anyone else, has issued the necessary orders for delivering the required assistance and has declared the willingness to do whatever is required. The eminent president, too, is doing good work and will, God willing, act with strength in this regard.

We must do what we can as a religious duty, and we hope God will not allow the remaining Muslims there to be annihilated or, God forbid, allow the sound of the chant, There is no God but Allah, and Mohammad is the messenger of Allah, to be silenced — God forbid. [end recording]

Rafsanjani Praises Impact of Friday Prayers

LD2507141695 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Tuesday [25 July] emphasized the moral, political and social impacts of the Friday prayer and said it further consolidates the Islamic revolution and the Islamic system.

In a meeting with the members of the Central Council for Friday Prayer Headquarters, he said the progress of the Islamic Iran and the breakthrough made by the Islamic revolution and overcoming the political hardships are all indebted to the people's presence at the scene and the Friday prayer is the symbol of the popular support. He added that the Friday prayer enhances the level of social understanding and serves as an important factor for promotion of islam and the moral values of the society. President Rafsanjani stressed the constructive and creative impact of the Friday prayer on individual and social life.

On achievements of the Friday prayer, he said reviewing the latest developments and declaring principled stands in the face of the conspiracies of the enemy were the fruits of the Friday prayer.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said if during the Friday prayers ceremonies held in other Islamic states, the social and political issues were explained and raised, the Muslims would have displayed a firm solidarity against terrible plights such as that of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He pointed to the gold medals won by Iranian students in international Olympiad competitions and said the world today is witnessing that young generation in Iran is ranking top at international scientific competitions attended by industrialized countries.

He said, "Despite the negative and satanic propaganda of the enemy on the so-called isolation of women in Islamic Iran, we are approaching our real scientific status in the world and have no doubt, if competitions were held on technical areas, we will score even higher."

The meeting was held on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of establishment of Friday prayer headquarters in Tehran. Head of the headquarters, Maqsudi said that in the past 16 years, 829 sessions of Friday prayer were held in Tehran 209 of which were led by Tehran's Friday prayer leader, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. President Rafsanjani has led the Friday prayer in Tehran for 248 times, he said.

Habibi Details Achievements of Development Plan

LD2607145795 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — First Vice-President Hasan Habibi addressing Wednesday [26 July] a seminar of Iranian diplomats abroad, outlined the government's performance in the first five year development plan (1989-1994) and forecasts for the second plan (1995-2000).

Habibi said that gross domestic products (GDP) in the first plan indicated a 7.3 percent growth on the average per annum which was close to the target figure predicted before.

The agricultural sector, he said, showed annual growth of six percent in the first plan.

The mines and industry sector, the first vice president said, registered a growth of 6.1 percent and the power, gas and water 12.7 percent in the first plan.

Habibi said the ratio of investment to GDP showed a 16.3 percent increase and the ratio of development expenditures to total expenditures rose from 19.4 percent to 32 percent within the said period.

According to Habibi, the share of educational and health expenditures in total expenditures was 13.1 percent and that of cultural and art credits 1.3 percent.

Khamene'i Reappoints Head of Foundation

LD2207111395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, has appointed Mr. Mohsen Rafiqdust as member of the board of governors of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Disabled and head of the foundation for two years. The text of the esteemed leader's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Mr. Mohsen Rafiqdust. Considering the fundamental changes in the affairs of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Disabled, and the formation of the board of governors with definite responsibilities to participate in fundamental decisions, for the sake of its proper management, I appoint your excellency as member of the board of governors and head of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled for two years.

I hope that by relying on God Almighty you will be successful in carrying out the necessary reforms and improving the capabilities and cohesion of the foundation toward further utilization of facilities and providing services and rendering the dear war-disabled self-sufficient and preserving and elevating the culture of self-sacrifice and looking into the affairs of the weak classes.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Price Reduction of 'Vital Items' Reported

95LA0287F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Jun 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Service—The stabilization of the rate of the dollar in the last two weeks resulted in the decrease in the price of many vital items as well as superfluous items of the people. At the same time, the prices of general foods, such as tea, oil, rice, and legumes, are still high, and the refusal of businessmen and merchants to supply general foods has in fact escalated the prices so as to keep them from coming down.**

At the present time, the prices of tires, household appliances, cars, houses, etc., have significantly decreased. For example, the price of a washing machine has decrease to 80,000 tumans. A foreign (Italian) washing machine that was priced up to some time ago in one store on Kargar Shomali Street at 400,000 tumans, with the stabilization of the rates, has suddenly decreased to 320,000 tumans. The owner of this shop said regarding the price decrease of household appliances: Since this kind of goods is imported into the country with foreign currency, the increase or decrease in the price of foreign currency has an effect on the increase or decrease in their prices.

He said: Now that the foreign currency rate has been stabilized in the society, the prices of these items have also stabilized, and if this trend continues, certainly the price of goods will become more stable in the future.

Jalil Zarandi, a young man who had bought some groceries from a store on Salsabil Street, told our correspondent: I am a spare parts salesman and can say that, after the smuggling of the dollar was prohibited, the price of automobile spare parts decreased 10-30 percent. The fact that the price of foodstuffs has not decreased is a mystery to me.

Adding to the statements of the spare parts salesman, Aslan Karimi said: If the government announces coupons for rice at the present time, certainly the price of rice will decrease at least to 150 tumans, and then the price of rice will reach a reasonable level in the society.

Decrease in the Price of Spare Parts

The price of various automobile spare parts has decreased in the past two weeks so that many spare parts sellers, contrary to the past days, are prepared to sell their goods in a non-cash form to customers.

This morning our KEYHAN correspondent, in an interview with several automobile spare parts dealers on Amir Kabir (Cheragh Barq) Street, learned that following the unprecedented recession in the spare parts market in the past few days, gradually, with the decrease in prices, trading has started, and it is expected that with the establishment of a balance in prices in the future days, the market will resume its activities.

A spare parts dealer told our correspondent: The market cannot stay in recession because most of us have dated checks in the hands of wholesalers and, in any case, will have to sell our items, even below cost, not to ruin our credit.

Hasan Abuzari, a spare parts dealer, also told our correspondent: Tabriz guaranteed rings and pistons in the past week have reduced in price 7,000 tumans. He added: A Peykan clutch plate, which was sold previously at up to 30,000 tumans, now has no customers, even at 26,000 tumans.

He pointed out: Because of the severe decrease in prices, dealers are prepared to sell the spare parts on credit, but no one wants to buy even with these conditions, and only those whose vehicles have an immediate need for parts that come to the market.

This report said: The price of various kinds of spare parts shows a decrease of 10-30 percent compared to two weeks ago.

The price of various Peykan tires has decreased by about 5,000 tumans during this period, but the price decrease is not seen in some of the low-cost equipment, such as carburetor jets, nuts and bolts, and secondary automobile equipment.

An engine equipment dealer, who has lost about 100,000 tumans from buying 20 sets of rings and pistons and has been unable to sell them, said: Even though I suffered losses in this deal, most of the items needed by the people have decreased in price, and I have no complaints. I hope the prices will be at their actual level and not fluctuate every moment.

Our correspondent also reported that many spare parts are sold at cost. For example, a full set of steering wheel tie rod ends for the Peykan is sold at the price of the parts manufacturers, which has been unprecedented in recent years.

Decrease in the Price of Construction Materials

This report indicated that in the past two weeks, the price of various kinds of construction materials has decreased. In this connection, the price of steel beams, metal strips, and even materials such as sand, plaster, and lime have decreased. Nevertheless, people are still waiting for the price of construction materials to decline even further, because in the days prior to implementing the government plan to stabilize the prices of foreign currency, the price of such construction materials increased unreasonably. 'Ali Zakeri, who is building a house in a neighborhood in Tehranpars, said in this regard: The instability of the prices of bricks, sand, lime, and plaster some time ago in fact slowed down home building in the country and even stopped it. Construction material sellers blamed the increase in the price of bricks, plaster, lime, and sand on the increase in the price of the dollar in the society, whereas these materials have no relationship to the dollar.

Our correspondent wrote in his report: Various kinds of metal strips have deceased in the market from 300 tumans per kilogram [kg] to 220 tumans; no. 14 iron from 18,000 tumans to 14,500 tumans; fillers and sand from 1,750 tumans and 1,650 tumans to 1,450 tumans and 1,350 tumans, respectively; and metal reinforcement wires from 110 tumans per kg to 98 tumans per kg. This decrease, according to the people and economic observers, with the stabilization of the foreign currency rate, will certainly even decrease in the coming days.

Based on this report, the price of pipes and connections, heating boiler pots, motor pumps, and natural gas and diesel fuel burners, also have decreased significantly in the recent days, but at the same time, a buyer of a natural gas burner replacement who had bought a 4,000-tuman replacement for 9,000 tumans, complaining to the Government Punishments Office, said: The price hiking businessmen who in a week raised the price of their goods because of the increase in the price of the dollar now suffer to have to restore the prices to their previous level. Hence, the government must examine the reasons for the differences in prices that have been created in the past few months, find a solution to these opportunistic and profiteering people, and stop price hiking and imposition on the people.

Pakistan

Editorial Warns of Anti-Muslim U.S. 'Agenda'

*BK2407082095 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
23 Jul 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "Pakistan — At the Crossroads or in the Clutches of U.S. Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. ambassador-designate to Pakistan Thomas W. Simmons has said, while expressing his views before a Senate panel, that Pakistan is standing at the crossroads of U.S. interests. In its relations with Pakistan, the United States looks forward to promoting and maintaining its vital interests.

The views expressed by Thomas Simmons before the Senate committee gives a clear picture of the U.S. strategy regarding this region. No doubt, Pakistan is being made a frontline state once again to increase U.S. dominance and influence on South Asian countries in a specific direction. Pakistan was made a frontline state at the time of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But after the achievement of their goal the same old "carrot and stick" policy was adopted. Now the plan is to weaken Pakistan and use it as a pawn in regard to the matters of regional stability, nuclear disarmament, terrorism, and Islamic society. During her recent visit to the United States, our prime minister herself had agreed to make Pakistan a frontline state against terrorism. Now the ambassador-designate also has indicated this same direction and has said that it has become more important, especially after the prime minister's visit. The ambassador-designate's views call for more attention because the U.S. ambassadors to our country tend to play the role of a viceroy; moreover, Thomas Simmons knows the ins and outs of this country. His father has been an ambassador to Pakistan and Mr. Simmons himself has been riding his bicycle in Karachi. His agenda in Pakistan includes the future of Islamic society and the economy.

Our government needs to be very cautious toward the renewed U.S. courting of Pakistan in view of the U.S. persecution of Muslims all over the world, especially in the Middle East and South Asia, as evidenced by the economic sanctions against Iran and Iraq. The U.S. ambassador says that Pakistan is standing at the crossroads of U.S. interests, but actually Pakistan has been tangled in the clutches of the United States. The U.S. pressure on us continues despite getting our nuclear program rolled back. For our survival we must decap our nuclear program immediately, or we will be ruined. Similarly, now the U.S. ambassador is arriving to promote liberalism against fundamentalism. The entire Islamic world knows what the United States means by fundamentalism. The very existence of Muslims in Bosnia is intolerable; European Christians say that we cannot tolerate the thorn of Islamic Bosnia in the side of Europe at any cost. Then how is it possible for them to tolerate those Muslims who want to move forward with Islam as their source of guidance? Perhaps Awami National Party leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan pointed to the same fact by saying that the United States has been compelled to block the spread of fundamentalism because the newly independent Muslim states that won their freedom from the Soviet Union possess nuclear bombs. Pakistan should take all precautions regarding this new U.S. agenda.

Abandoning U.S. as Sole Arms Source Advocated

BK2507124195 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 25 Jul 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Search for Alternative Sources of Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to informed sources, the government has revised its policy of sole dependence on the United states for military equipment. Under the new policy, the Pakistan Navy will buy warships from China, which a high-level delegation visited in the beginning of July. Apart from that, submarines are also being acquired from France.

We have depended totally on the United States for the supply of arms since the establishment of Pakistan. Pakistan's membership of the defense pacts like SEATO [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization] and CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] and the advanced training of military officers also led a dependence on the United States. Pakistan had its first bitter experience in this regard in September 1965 when the U.S. stopped its arms supply in the face of India's open aggression. Subsequently, only after an extended period of time did the U.S. resume military aid, but to serve its own interests in the Afghan war. Later, military as well as economic aid were again stopped on the pretext of Pakistan's nuclear program. Though the restoration of military aid and a resolution to the F- 16's issue seem likely in the wake of Prime Minister Bhutto's recent visit to the United States, it is true that the U.S. does not seem to be very dependable in the light of our past experience. Pakistan's only reliable friend is China, which has always helped us during hard times. Pakistan will have to find alternative sources of modern weapons for its defense. Besides, it is also necessary that we import defense technology to make Pakistan self-supporting in the production of military equipment. Dependence on others for military equipment can be very dangerous for the security of a country.

Daily Details 'Technology Transfer' From France

BK2607123895 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Jul 95 p 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (PPI) — Pakistan will be the first non-European country in the world to operate an air-independent propulsion (AIP) French submarine by the turn of the century, which means Pakistan has attained mastery of liquid oxygen storing and handling, PPI learnt here on Wednesday [19 July].

Pakistan has entered into an agreement with France for purchase of three Agosta-90b submarines for its navy. Work on the first submarine started at the French Naval Dockyard recently. The agreement envisages transfer of high technology to Pakistan.

A comprehensive training programme, which is due to take place in France as well as in Pakistan, is necessary to achieve this huge technology transfer under which a large number of Pakistan Navy personnel will be trained.

The first team to work on the submarine programme is expected in France at the end of this month.

According to the delivery schedule, the first Agosta-90b submarine which will be completely built at a French Naval Dockyard will be delivered to Pakistan Navy in early 1990.

The second one would be partially built in France and Pakistan and later assembled at the Pakistan Naval Dockyard, by early year 2001, while the third one will be completely built in Pakistan and ready by the year 2002.

Meanwhile, the second minehunter acquired from France will be delivered to Pakistan soon while the third one will be assembled at the Naval Dockyard in Karachi. Pakistan Navy has already received delivery of the first minehunter built at the French Naval Dockyard.

Personnel of Pakistan Navy participated in the construction process of the second minehunter in order to assemble the third of these ships in Pakistan.

The achievement of the technology transfers for the minehunters and the submarines by France will bring new high technologies and industrial skills to Pakistan including complex construction and engineering methods.

Army Official Returns From France, Germany

BK2407112795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 24 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi — Chief of the Army Staff General Abdul Waheed returned here Sunday [23 July] evening after official visit to France and Germany. During visits to Paris and Bonn, the army chief held talks with the civil as well as military hierarchy of the two countries on bilateral, global and regional issues.

On the first leg of his visit, the army chief reached France on July 10 for week long visit during which he held talks with French Minister of Defence Million, Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Lanxade and head of the Procurement Agency in the French Ministry of Defence General Henry Conze.

He also witnessed demonstration of Leclerc main battle tank and attended the July 13 independence day parade in Paris. Later, he flew to Germany on a five day official visit on July 17 and held wide ranging talks in Bonn with his German counterpart Lieutenant General Hartmut Bagger and other senior German military officials.

Navy Said Considering Purchase of PRC Warships

BK2407112495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (PPI) — Pakistan Navy is considering to purchase four warships from China to fill in near term requirements and to use the acquisition as a blue print for manufacture of future vessels. Informed sources told PPI here on Sunday [23 July] that a high-powered Pakistan Navy delegation visited China in early July to negotiate the deal which would involve technology transfer and advisory assistance. The sources said that the warships being considered for purchase include Jianghu (type 053) frigate and Luda (type 051) and Luhu (type 052) destroyers adding that acquisition of these warships would ultimately lead to their indigenous production. The sources pointed out that Pakistan armed forces were attempting to break traditional dependence on US origin weaponry. The initial purchases will be from variety of sources willing to transfer technology and enabling Pakistan to produce domestically most of its military hardware. Referring to other naval modernisation programmes the sources said that they include purchase of Agostaclass patrol submarines from France.

'Grave Concern' Expressed Over Safe Area Attacks

BK2607034795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has expressed grave concern over the continued Serb offensive against UN-designated safe areas in Bosnia in complete disregard of the decisions of the Security Council. An official spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that the government has expressed concern over the statement issued after the international conference on Bosnia held in London on 21 July. It did not contain a clear warning against Serb attacks on safe areas other than Gorazde. The government has drawn the attention to the fact that the UN Security Council is obliged under its resolution to protect all safe areas in Bosnia. The spokesman said Pakistan has also been grieved at the inaction in the face of acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing being committed against Muslims by Serb forces, which overran Srebrenica and continued to deny access to the International Committee of Red Cross.

Spokesman Views Bosnia, Kashmir Abductions

BK2007144895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has expressed deep disappointment at the inadequate response of major countries on the occupation of Srebrenica by Serbs. He warned that decisions and resolutions of the UN Security Council would lose all credibility, if they are not followed up for prompt implementation. The spokesman said immediate steps must be taken to protect safe areas of Zepa, Gorazde, and Bihac from falling into Serb hands. Replying to questions, the spokesman said Pakistani troops are in Bosnia as part of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] and would continue to be there as long as UNPROFOR is there.

Replying to other questions, the spokesman said Pakistan condemns kidnapping of Westerners in occupied Kashmir. He said we feel that those involved in it are helping those who are trying to malign Pakistan and Kashmir cause.

The spokesman rejected any accusation of Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. He said Pakistan continues to maintain a policy of noninterference and does not wish to take sides.

Bhutto Comments on Talks on Karachi, Floods

BK2707033995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said there is no deadlock in the talks with the

Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group for restoring peace in Karachi and it is expected that the talks will continue with a view to finding out a political solution of the problem. She was talking to newsmen during her visit to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad yesterday, where she had gone to inquire about the health of retired Brigadier Mohammad Asgar, minister for industries and production. She said both the sides have the right to ask questions. The two sides will have to satisfy each other as the matter cannot be resolved unilaterally.

Replying to a question about the floods, she said the overall flood situation is under control. However, torrential rains have caused damage in Sindh and Northwest Frontier Province. The areas in Sindh have been mainly hit by the hill torrents from Balochistan. About 5 million people have been rendered homeless and 6 million acres of land have been inundated. The prime minister said she wanted to visit Larkana, which has also been affected by the rains, but because of weather conditions it has not been possible. The Federal Government has made available helicopters for relief operations, while the Army has been alerted to meet any eventuality. She said the Federal Government has been fully coordinating with the provincial governments in rescue operations.

Results of Karachi Police Action Reported, Viewed

Babar Claims 'Substantial Success'

BK2207144195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, has said substantial success has been achieved in restoring law and order in Karachi.

Addressing a news conference in Karachi this afternoon, he said there has been a major change in the conditions during the preceding three to four weeks. The despondency and fears prevailing in the minds of common people have largely been removed and state authority has been significantly established. He appealed to [Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader] Altaf Hussain to abandon policies of violence as his own people have suffered a lot and are fed up with violence. We should allow them to live in peace.

Referring to the action taken by the law enforcing agencies in certain parts of Gulbahar police station, the interior minister said the defense positions like trenches indicate that the terrorists must have been highly trained.

Replying to a question about extradition of Altaf Hussain, he said although Pakistan has no extradition treaty with Britain, but there is a clear distinction between terrorism and political activities. [sentence as heard] The British Government should look into the political career and activities of Altaf Hussain.

Diplomats Visit 'Restored' Areas

BK2307135895 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, diplomats from 17 countries accompanied by the Sindh governor, Mr. Kamal Asfar, and the interior minister, Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, today visited Gulbahar and Orangi areas where law enforcing agencies restored law and order after flushing out terrorists in rescue operation.

In Gulbahar, the diplomats went round various units of the locality. They were particularly shown the notorious Khaji ground where terrorists and unlawful elements used to carry out acts of terrorism, including torturing people and killing innocent citizens. They were told that the terrorists used to torture, shoot, slaughter, and hang their opponents in the football ground. They were shown blood-splattered platform where the terrorists used to slaughter the innocent people and the goal post where they used to hang them.

The diplomats were warmly welcomed by the people of the area who told them that the writ of law has been established in the locality which was earlier virtually taken over by the terrorists.

Official Reports on 'Action'

BK2507054795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, has said all terrorist groups operating in the country will be brought to book with the cooperation of people. Talking to newsmen in Karachi this afternoon, he said that during the past two months, about 50 terrorists have been killed in Karachi alone. About 100 have been arrested and out of these, some 30 to 40 terrorists were arrested from Karachi.

The interior minister said presently law-enforcing agencies were carrying out targeted action to apprehend criminals and provide relief and security to the law-abiding citizens. Referring to the action by law enforcing agencies in Orangi Town and Gulbahar areas, the interior minister said these areas have now been opened up and trenches excavated and barricades erected, but [as heard] the criminals have been removed, allowing free flow of traffic and people into the localities. He said there are some other areas in the city, which need to be opened.

Referring to the visit of foreign diplomats to Khaji Ground in Gulbahar areas and Orangi Town yesterday, he said they were taken to these areas in order to inform the world that normal life has been restored in Karachi, writ of government established, and atmosphere conducive for foreign investment created.

Editorial Views New Operation

BK2407091395 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Another Karachi operation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new operation in Karachi jointly conducted by the police and the paramilitary forces and aimed at flushing out the terrorists from Gulbahar in District Central, a particularly troubled locality, has led to the arrest of some MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] activists and to the uncovering of evidence of murder and torture in Khajii Ground, a former football field in the area. According to some reports the terrorists had been tipped off prior to the operation and most of them were presumably able to escape before the area was condoned off. That may have more to do with the lack of resistance met by the 1,100- strong police and paramilitary detachments than anything else. The government, however, is likely to see the outcome as a justification for continuing with its campaign in other localities suspected of having terrorist bases. But this brings to the fore yet again the issue of a conducive environment for the on-going negotiations between the government and the MQM. The latter has sought an end to the operation while indicating that, in return, it would be willing to appeal to the people of Karachi to restore peace. The offer was reiterated Friday [21 July] by MQM's chief negotiator Ajmal Dehlvi. The government, however, has consistently maintained that the operation cleanup was directed at terrorists and would continue alongside the negotiations. There can be no denying the need for pursuing terrorists and bringing them to justice. At the same time, however, it is imperative that some way be found to break the deadly cycle of violence in Karachi. The government may be better advised to take the MQM offer at face value and suspend the operation for the time being to ascertain if the latter is in a position to deliver. It can, subsequently, move to bring those accused of heinous crimes to book.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar has expressed his surprise at the British government's reported decision to allow the MQM leader, Altaf Hussain, to stay on in UK, indefinitely. It is perhaps time for the interior minister to drop the issue of securing the MQM leader's return from London. Even if it could be managed, it is difficult to see how this would facilitate the process of finding a solution to the Karachi issue. The government's position for some time has been that if Mr Altaf Hussain wishes to return to the country he will have to appear before the court in connection with the serious charges against him. The interior minister's attempt to go beyond this has not appeared to serve any particularly useful purpose.

Sindh Chief Declares 'Open War' Against 'Terrorists'

95AS0460B Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu 6 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Open War Against Terrorists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sindh's Chief Minister Sayyed Abdullah Shah has once again openly declared; "I will not allow peace-loving citizens to burn in the fire of a civil war. Those who are talking about a civil war should check their senses. This is not funny and is an anti-government and anti-national action." He was addressing a meeting and said that those who cause deaths of their brothers will have to pay for it. He said that we have declared an open war against the terrorists and we are ready to fight them. Whose orders is he following? He further said that he was willing to talk with everyone for the better future of the nation, but he will not talk with the terrorists. The law and order situation prevalent in Karachi for the last few years has proved that in addition to armed groups some local and foreign terrorist groups are also involved. If a government submits to terrorists, the peace-loving citizens lose faith in it. It is not the Pakistan People's Party that has ruined the city; it has inherited this law and order situation. The former government had called the military when it got fed up with the situation and the military used all its resources to search and siege every house. However, because of its limited authority it could not make much progress. It did succeed in getting rid of robbers in Karachi and Sindh and also removed major terrorists. However, terrorism from abroad continued to emerge periodically. The enemy moves its [chess] pieces when it finds the right opportunity. The present government seeing the seriousness of the situation, and also the need for being vigilant on the borders, recalled the military and gave the responsibility to enforce law and order in Karachi to the police and the rangers. The police and the rangers took over the responsibility and under a strategic plan tried to clean up the terrorists. In this context, arrangements at the borders were also made to stop external interference. Many terrorists who have admitted to being trained in India and sent here by Indian Intelligence were apprehended in Karachi and other places. In addition, mobile patrol and other arrangements have helped stop the wave of terrorism.

The residents are taking a breath of relief and the occasional incidents of firings, torture, and terrorism only indicate that the terrorists are taking their last breath. The purpose of explaining the background of law and order disturbance is to show that the terrorists have always been vanquished in this war and the present government has never submitted to the terrorists. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto declared openly in Karachi recently that the government will neither make any deal with the terrorists nor will it yield to them. At that time, she had also told various people involved in gang wars to control their terrorist elements, otherwise there will be no talks with them. The prime minister said that she considers politics and terrorism separate elements and politics is practiced with politicians only. Her doors are always open to politicians, however, she will not talk to any terrorist; "We have an open war against them and we consider this war a jihad."

Article Views Bhutto Speech Assailing Muhajirs

95AS0461C Karachi AKHBAR-E-JEHAN in Urdu 8 Jun 95 p 13

[Article by Agha Masood Hussain: "The Prime Minister's Speech Increased Problems in Urban Sindh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is not the prime minister of rural Sindh only; she is the prime minister of urban Sindh and the whole of Pakistan. She should be careful in what she says and how she says it. The words she used to describe Muhajirs in Qasur do not behoove her as a prime minister.

Her unbridled sentences have acted like "sprinkling salt on a wound." The whole of urban Sindh is opposing it as one body. The government spokesman had tried to clarify her speech and said that she was referring to those terrorists who have made the whole city of Karachi their hostage. This has resulted in suspension of all business and other activities. She was not referring to the average Muhajirs who have nothing to do with politics or terrorism. However, this clarification came out a bit too late. Even more bitterness was felt in urban Sindh. Perhaps that was the reason that the Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM] refused to negotiate with the new governor, and because of this lack of political dialogue whole Sindh is paralyzed now. We have written in these columns earlier that it is the government's responsibility to improve the political atmosphere. Who will be responsible for improving the situation if the government decides that it cannot negotiate with its political opponent? Who in Sindh will then put out the fire raging there? Politics, like social systems, is an unending story of human activities. The goal of these activities should be the betterment of humanity. If the political system causes bloodshed and tension, it is not politics; it is anarchy. God has blessed Madam Bhutto with unlimited wisdom and ability of discretion. She has also confronted governments in the past and learned some lessons. Therefore, she should learn from history and move with urban Sindh at her side.

Some Karachi politicians interpret her comments in Qasur as an effort to incite Muhajirs in order to punish them more. However, her approach and beliefs are not appropriate and this will not have good results, either. There is so much contradiction in her words and actions. She has appointed a Muhajir governor of Sindh so that he could try to improve life in urban Sindh. The next moment she created such a situation for the new governor that he cannot think about talking about cooperation with his political opponents. The Muhajir politicians in Karachi are correct in telling the prime minister that since there are heavy clouds of war swarming over Kashmir and the turbulence in urban Sindh is effecting our internal security, it is not appropriate for her to make the situation even more serious. In Qasoor, she should have just talked about the situation and if she was emotional about the situation in Karachi then she should have waited and took it out with the media in Karachi. Anyhow, her comment acted like oil on water. The people everywhere are expressing their reaction over her comments. An unnecessary tension has been created and it will take some time before it goes away. The prime minister should not forget that only 18 months earlier she had received cooperation from the MQM to help make Farooq Leghari the president. The MQM had cooperated and voted for Mr. Leghari. We can say that a working relationship between the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the MQM has been established. Talks were being held between the two in Sindh. Suddenly the prime minister got upset at them and made some comments about them which do not behoove a person in her position. This has created bitterness in urban Sindh and people there are angry at her. Someone was right in saying that it does not matter whether the MQM is a good party or bad; as long as it has popular support and approval, no talks related to urban Sindh can be successful if one bypasses it. That is why voices are being heard from all over Pakistan, especially Karachi, demanding immediate start of talks with the MQM to save this Pakistani city. Prognosticators have forecast even more powerful political turmoil for June and July. This will make the situation even worse. Therefore, the government should come to its senses and leave no stone unturned in improving the situation in Sindh. Only in this approach lies our welfare and Pakistan's salvation.

Meanwhile the MQM leader has clearly said that as long as he lives he will not advise anyone to respond violence with violence. He said that this could destroy the whole nation. While strongly criticizing the government, he said that the PPP is taking the nation toward dictatorship and the "Mafia power" has made plans to break up the country. He said that unbearable atrocities were being committed on Muhajirs, who despite all this still want the safety and security of Pakistan. He further said that the issue of prime minister's wrong, inappropriate, and unacceptable comments should be raised at the United Nations.

There was a total strike in Karachi at the appeal of the Milli Yakjehti [solidarity] Council. Thus, the Karachites have once again proved that they are with the rest of the nation on the issue of Namoos Risalat [religious laws]. One other positive aspect of this strike was that no violence occurred on that day. No group fired even in the air to force stores and offices to close. The people of Karachi voluntarily participated in the strike. They wanted to send the message to the government that they will not accept this law if the proposed changes in Namoos Risalat were made. As the result of this strike, the rest of the world, especially the West, has learned that Pakistani Muslims are united under the flag of Islam despite the internal dissension here. They will not allow the government to make any kind of change in Namoos Risalat because of the outside pressure. The West has been trying to give notoriety to Pakistan by accusing it of fundamentalism for the last few months. On the insistence of India and Israel, it wants to create a situation in Pakistan to have continuous turmoil here. [One of the] Christian youths who was sentenced to death here had committed a sacrilege against Islam at someone's behest or on his own to incite the Muslims and even precipitate a campaign against the minorities. This youth has been freed on bail and Germany has given him political asylum. Is the West trying to prove that it still has not forgotten its defeat in the crusades by supporting anti-Islamic elements?

Sri Lanka

President Urges Political Solution to Problems

BK2107130595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankans are faced with a very important problem today — whether the unitary status of the country could be maintained in the context of the ongoing northeast war. President Chandrika Kumaratunga has called the people of this country to commit themselves to finding a political solution to the dragging ethnic problem. The president has also said that the political struggle to bring the war to an end and to achieve peace was to make Sri Lanka a strong nation. The president was speaking at a ceremony to mobilize the first group of National Auxiliary Force in Colombo yesterday.

The president further said that the government has received a massive mandate as well as the support of the politicians and the armed forces toward finding a political solution to the crisis. This indicated that they have understood that a permanent solution could not be found through military means. The president observed that the government and the people were resolved to bring this (?nasty) war — which had caused massive loss of life and limbs and resources over the past 12 years — to a quick end.

Referring to the war situation, President Kumaratunga said that the major victory would be achieved with minimum destruction. She said that the armed forces and the police were acting with courage, wisdom, and dedication amidst difficulties. The government was prepared to place before the people the proposed political package to end the current crisis. She pointed out that the ongoing war was not against any section of the community but was aimed at creating a situation where all the people of this country would be able to live in peace and harmony without fear and suspicion.

Speaking on this occasion, the minister of irrigation, power, and energy/deputy minister of defense, Anuruddha Ratwatte, said that the members of the auxiliary force would share the noble task of safeguarding the unitary status of the country. They have been vested with the important task of providing security to the villagers.

Reportage, Commentary on Government Peace Plan

'Very Extensive Devolution' Marks Plan

BK2307102195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0636 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 23 (AFP) — Sri Lanka is on the verge of unveiling a political package aimed at ending its ethnic bloodletting and will appoint an interim administration in troubled regions within a week, official sources said Sunday [23 July].

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga is expected to announce this week proposals to resolve the drawn out ethnic conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives in the past 23 years, the sources said.

"The government wants to first appraise all political parties during the week and then have an interim council established before the month is out," a Tamil legislator said after a series of talks with government ministers.

The government was offering "very extensive devolution" of power to minority Tamils in exchange for ethnic peace in this majority Sinhala nation of 17.5 million people, the sources said.

They said the proposals were most likely to call for an Indian- model constitution where the unitary character would be retained while granting greater autonomy to smaller units.

The long-awaited political bid follows a major military campaign against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern Jaffna peninsula where they already maintain a de facto separate Tamil state.

Tamil sources say the government hoped to politically marginalise the Tamil Tigers by offering political concessions to moderates who have agreed to accept the unitary character of this small Indian Ocean republic.

The government first offered to discuss political moves with the Tigers but the group refused to even look at them before winning economic concessions in areas under their control.

Justice Minister G. L. Peiris told reporters here recently that the government had no intention of talking to the Tamil Tigers again. The current military drive was aimed at "liberating" Tamils from the LTTE, Peiris said.

The LTTE resumed its campaign war for a separate state called Eelam on April 19 after ending six months of talks with Kumaratunga's administration which came to power in August promising an end to the bloodshed.

Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community, is now expected to address the nation later s week on her proposals that would allow minority Tamils a greater say in the administration of their own affairs.

Official sources said Kumaratunga was keen to set up an interim administrative mechanism for the embattled northern and eastern regions pending elections in the strife-torn region.

"There are areas in the Northeast brought under military control. It is possible to revive the civil administration in those places and for that a political body is necessary," a government source said.

Similar bids to resolve the conflict ended in failure and led to more bloodshed with the LTTE calling the shots in the northern and eastern regions, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula where most of the Tamils are concentrated.

Tamil sources who did not want to be named said they were sounded out by the government last week to win their support for the proposed political package which is in line with sweeping constitutional reforms.

To introduce the Tamil package as well as constitutional reforms the government needs a two thirds support in the national parliament and also approval at a nationwide referendum.

The government which has only a one-seat majority must win the support of the main opposition United National Party (UNP) to press ahead with the package and Minister Peiris said informal talkst there was broad agreement.

Minister Comments on Plan

BK2307141995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jul 95

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Justice Minister G.L. Peiris told reporters recently that the government had no intention of talking to the Tamil Tigers again. The current military drive was aimed at liberating Tamils from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Tamil sources, who did not want to be named, said that they were (?sounded out) by the government last week to win their support for the proposed political package which is in line with sweeping constitutional reforms.

The military confirmed yesterday that 130 civilians and 30 Tamil rebels were killed when an explosive laden truck of the LTTE exploded in the Jaffna peninsula on the 12th of July. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told a news conference in Colombo that the military intelligence confirmed the casualties. Mr. Munasinghe said that the LTTE has now cordoned off the area to the public.

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, commenting on the military operation, said that security forces have the necessary strength and courage to capture the Jaffna peninsula by defeating the LTTE terrorists in battle. This task will take some time. Brigadier Munasinghe told newsmen that the government is directing a security operation by keeping military and civilian casualty to the minimum in the Jaffna peninsula. He categorically stated that troops have not abandoned the areas liberated by them. They are consolidating their positions in a 78-square-kilometer area. A large number of LTTE terrorists was killed in clashes with troops during Operation Leap Forward. He further stated that the security forces can successfully face up to any threat of the LTTE in the East.

The minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris, noted that the government's devolution package to settle the present crisis will be presented to the people before the end of this month. Commenting on critical news reports, the minister said that there was no practical difficulty for the government to go ahead with the process. Meanwhile, the government will implement a program to provide relief to families of fishermen who are held captive by the LTTE. Dry rations will be provided to them through the Ministry of Rehabilitation. A sum of 10,000 rupees will be granted as an interest-free loan to repair their houses. Loans will also be provided to them to start self-employment projects.

Minister Outlines 'Devolution Package'

MS2507092495 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 25 Jul 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar by Mark Nicholson and Mervyn de Silva in Colombo; date not given: "Colombo to Offer Devolution Package to Tamils"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan government is to offer a "very substantial devolution" of power to Tamils in the island's north and east, in a political package to be announced within the next few days, according to Mr Lakshman Kadirgamar, the country's foreign minister.

Mr Kadirgamar said the government of Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga was confident it could forge a consensus around the package, which it hopes will form the basis of a political solution to the war in the north. The conflict over a Tamil-claimed homeland in the north and east has claimed more than 50,000 lives in the past 20 years.

Mr Kadirgamar said in an interview that the government had in effect ruled out further negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], the guerrilla group led by Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran.

LTTE fighters, civilians and Sri Lankan troops have died in fighting since peace talks between Mrs Kumaratunga's administration and the LTTE broke down in April. Fighting has intensified in the past two weeks as the LTTE launched a counter-attack against a government offensive to capture LTTE-held territory on the Jaffna peninsula. Officials said at the weekend that government forces were "consolidating" their position in the north.

Mr Kadirgamar blamed the LTTE for ending peace talks in April and said the move had "closed the door" on further direct talks. Direct negotiations have looked unlikely since Mrs Kumaratunga in May accused Mr Prabhakaran of masterminding the assassination of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister.

Instead, Mr Kadirgamar said, the government aimed to isolate and undermine the Tigers by winning cross-party support for its proposed devolution package. He believed most Tamil parliamentary politicians would back the measures, and the opposition United National party would be "hard pressed" to object.

The package, which Mr Kadirgamar said he had discussed in outline with Tamil groups, would contain broad proposals to devolve power from Colombo to the north and east in areas embracing control over land, policing, education and finance. "There will be a list of areas which will belong to the regions and a reserve list of powers belonging to central government."

The package would not define borders or precise territorial units of devolution which should be left to eventual border commissions. Tamil groups have long sought an autonomous homeland merging Jaffna and the northern province with the country's eastern province, which includes both the port of Trincomalee and fertile farmlands to the south.

The package would be only a "framework" which, if backed by Sri Lankan political parties would require amendments to the constitution to enact. This would need the support of two-thirds of parliament and a referendum, Mr Kadirgamar added. The government had no timetable in mind for the eventual adoption of its forthcoming proposals or for a referendum on the measures in the east. Timing would partly depend on the outcome of fighting in the north.

He conceded that since the decision to ignore the LTTE as a political interlocutor, success in pushing through the proposed devolution measures would rely heavily on the Sri Lankan army managing to "enfeeble" the Tigers as a military force. Failure to shake the Tigers' stronghold in Jaffna would make it impossible for moderate Tamils in the north, or supporters of the government's proposed devolution moves, to make their political weight felt.

Rebels Deny Sending Muslims Ultimatum To Leave

*BK2107073895 Hong Kong AFP in English
0646 GMT 21 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, July 21 (AFP) — An ultimatum purporting to come from Tamil rebels has warned Muslims to vacate a northwestern region by August 1 or be forcibly evicted, legislators said Friday [21 July].

Muslim leaders in the northwestern district of Puttalam received the ultimatum, which bore the letterhead of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), according to Mohamed Hisbullah, a member of parliament from the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress party.

"The letters warned Muslims in Puttalam to leave by August 1 or they will be forced to go. We will be meeting President (Chandrika) Kumaratunga next week to brief her on this development," Hisbullah said.

He said he could not confirm whether the letters, received earlier this week, actually came from the LTTE, but noted they were typed and written in fluent Tamil, unlike a similar ultimatum that urged Muslims to vacate the eastern town of Kathankudy by July 1.

The LTTE denied sending that ultimatum and accused the government of trying to drive a wedge between Muslims and Tamils, both minority ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Large numbers of Muslims, mostly traders, live in Puttalam.

The earlier ultimatum, also purporting to come from the LTTE, was "handwritten and had a lot of grammatical errors," Hisbullah said.

Following an ultimatum in 1990, some 80,000 Muslims fled northern Jaffna and some 200 Muslim worshippers were mas@acred at mosques in Kathankudy and neighbouring Eravur. The massacre was blamed on the LTTE, which, however, denied being involved.

Some 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 17 million people are ethnically Sinhalese. The island also has about 1.5 million Muslims and some 2.5 million Tamils. The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for the Tamils.

Minister Cites 'Doubt' Over Ultimatum

*BK2307144995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 23 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of ports, shipping, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, Mohamed Ashraff, says the alleged ultimatum by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for Muslim residents to leave the Puttalam District could be the work of anti-government elements.

The minister, who was on a two-day inspection tour of the Puttalam District, in an exclusive interview with the SLBC said that a doubt has been created about who was responsible for the eviction notice. Mr. Ashraff said that anyway all necessary measures have been taken to meet the situation if there really was an ultimatum.

A special security forces operation has been prepared to strengthen the security of all people living in the Puttalam District. The minister further said that he did not witness any agitation among any section of people due to this notice. On the rehabilitation of the refugees in the district, the minister said that under the Samrdhi prosperity program, the Samrdhi marriage allowance has been introduced. He said that 177 families were given relief assistance amounting to 25,000 rupees each. A further 800 families are to receive Samrdhi benefits.

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